

Approved 09/14/2022

Present: Members Mary Jo Holmes (Chair), Pat Martel (Vice Chair), Gene Cordes, Jon Benson, Josh Yokela (Arrived at 7:05), Gordon Muench and Emily Phillips; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson and Shawn Perreault (recording minutes). It is noted that Member Steve Bonaccorsi had a last-minute work obligation that prevented him from attending.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Holmes and started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion was made by Holmes to approve the meeting minutes of April 13, 2022. Benson seconded. Motion passed by a vote of 6-0. (Yokela came in after the vote).

Carlson supplied everyone with a current summary of the Town's budget expense and revenue reports. They are on target in all departments. The full-time buildings and grounds maintenance position has been filled and the new hire has started. There has been one application submitted for the part time supervisor maintenance position and two others who have expressed an interest in applying. The maintenance positions wages are budgeted within the Government Buildings budget.

Cordes stated there was a resignation in the Police Department, however, they were able to recruit someone fairly quickly.

Carlson stated there is excess NH Highway Block Grant funds being disbursed to Town's and Fremont is planning to use it on the Martin Road Bridge project to leverage cash flow as we work with the NH Bridge Aid reimbursement funding. Fremont received just over \$99,000. Further discussion was held on the bridge money and the State's process and what is currently happening with the project. The Martin Road Bridge needs to have engineering and the design work done before the Town can apply for the 80% reimbursement on expenses to date.

Carlson also touched on the ARPA grant monies the Town has received. The biggest expense thus far was the approximate \$80,000 used to repave the Safety Complex lot. The Board is also considering tomorrow night, a request from the Police Department for \$3,900 to replace the speed trailer with a speed sign that will move around town. The Select Board is trying to use the grant monies to lessen the impact on taxpayers.

The Library HVAC replacement is also underway following the engineering and bid process. Once that is complete, the Town will no longer have oil in any buildings, everything is propane. Muench offered some information about the heat pump system at the Library, which will be able to run more efficiently. Carlson added that the Town is looking at an emergency backup generator at the Library as well.

The following budgets for 2023 were distributed to be reviewed by the Committee at the next meeting. Holmes asked Carlson to forward any others that come in.

- 4153 Judicial & Legal - Select Board has reviewed
- 4215 Ambulance – Select Board has reviewed
- 4290 Emergency Management – Select Board has reviewed
- 4151 Financial Administration
- 4191 Land Use
- 4550 Library

Carlson noted that updates only to the face sheet (with up to date expenses) will be brought back to future meetings and members should keep the rationale intact.

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Muench stated that Castle informed him the MS25 is complete and just need the School Board's signature. Castle will be bringing something to the Committee at the next meeting. The School is looking for a fourth grade teacher and a number of paraprofessionals. Further discussion was held on the open positions in education as a whole. Many districts are struggling to fill open staff positions.

Carlson stated that she put the public hearing date and other meetings and deadlines on the draft budget season calendar which was also distributed to the Committee. The Committee reviewed the meetings tentatively set for the rest of the year to include the Public Hearing on January 11. The Committee meetings were set for September 14 and 28; October 12 and 26; November 2, 9, 16 and 30; December 7, 14 and 21; and January 2, 2023 if needed. It is noted the petition Warrant Article deadline is Tuesday January 10, 2023.

Carlson will email the member contact information sheet and the meeting dates to everyone with the changes that were made. In response to questions and discussion, Carlson noted the Planning Board is forming a CIP Committee and will be looking for a couple of Budget Committee members to be part of the CIP Committee. Further discussion was held on what the CIP is and how it will be maintained.

Yokela noted his recent research of meeting minutes and stated he was looking for the Committee to review any prior Budget Committee Non-Public meeting minutes. He stated the Committee needs to review prior non-public minutes to make sure nothing needs to be unsealed. He asked the Committee if maybe a policy needs to be made. He is currently working with Carlson to scan all public documents and put them online. It is believed the Budget Committee would not have any non-public minutes. Further discussion was held on requirements and timelines.

Benson asked if a different procedure could be adopted when appointing a candidate to an open seat. He would like to see the candidates introduce themselves and speak to the Committee and then the members return the next week to discuss the candidates and vote. Further discussion was held on how things could be changed and how other boards handled it.

The next meeting will be held on September 14, 2022 in the basement meeting room of the Town Hall at 7:00 pm.

A combined Town and School District Deliberative Session is tentatively scheduled for Saturday February 4, 2023 at 9:00 am with the snow date of the following Saturday.

Motion made to adjourn by Cordes, seconded by Muench. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Perreault
Recording Secretary