

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**January 16, 2024**

## **MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Ken Jacques, B. Manning, Tim Cook, Darrin Patten, Justin Hastings and Jeff Milne.

Absent: Whit Smith

Also present Select Board Don Hill, Road Agent Tim Hayes and Steve Dzubak

Chairman Jacques requested a roll call, all members present.

Minutes of January 9, 2024 B. Manning moved to accept as written, Jeff Milne seconded the motion Board unanimously approved.

Discussion of the Power Plant assessment, how and when it is done. Sancousy is contracted to provide an annual assessment in Sept/Oct timeframe. Questions of if it is possible to find out how the assessment is determined.

Chairman Jacques recognized Road Agent Tim Hayes. B. Manning questioned the line for Shim and Seal/Paving with a requested amount of \$100K in it. Was that amount to prep Sanborn Hill Rd prior to paving it? Tim responded that the prep work would be coming from various other lines, culverts being one of those. The Shim and Seal/Paving line is for paving with the plan to have a quote for 2025 prior to the end of the year so that the amount can be encumbered and added to another \$100K to be budgeted in 2025 to pave the entire road during May before the paving company gets busy with the State roads and before the end of the year. The Board is concerned that paving in the spring will lead to issues if the road is still soft from the spring. Tim responded that he would be watching carefully and not allow the paving to happen if the road needs more time to dry out.

Other lines with questions as to the amount requested include Salt with an increase of \$5k due to an increase in the cost and transport of materials, Signs with an increase \$3,500 because a majority of road signs in town no longer meet State standards for reflectiveness as well as an increase in cost. 100 delineators now cost \$1,200. Gravel is another line that has a significant increase in the requested amount. Many dirt roads in Town need gravel added to them also having a stockpile of gravel for use when it is needed.

Discussion of the Galion Grader. Ken shared with the Board and Tim that Poul Heilmann has suggested that a group of 2-3 individuals with equipment knowledge research options that could prolong the life of the grader. Jeff Milne has offered to be one of them. Tim has done some research and found buying new would cost between \$360K-\$385K with a 7-year warranty. B. Manning does not feel the Town can afford that purchase. Leasing is another option though that option could possibly cost between \$125K-\$130K more than buying at the end of the lease. Refurbishing or rebuilding is another option. It is now possible to produce parts using 3-D printers, might cost \$75K to refurbish, an easier amount to ask the townspeople to spend. Questions of how many hours are on the machine, Tim will find out, he has been keeping records of that type of thing since he started. When the grader was purchased for \$108,848 in Dec 1996 it was 2 years old and had 400 hours on it.

Discussion of the Building/Prop Maintenance line and the Non-Recurring Projects line. \$30,000 between the two lines, what was charged to those? Capital Alarm monthly monitoring, generator contract, Casella

(dumpster), septic pumping fees, HW/FD garage doors repair, porta-potties, skatepark repair, elevator inspections/lift repair and pest control. Should some of those items be in the non-recurring projects line? It they are items that are a once every ten or so years they probably should be. What are projects going forward that the Buildings/Grounds Committee have suggested to be preformed during 2024? The front doors of the Town Office and Library and improvements to the Police Dept will be charged to the non-recurring projects line during 2024. B. spoke to Dallas Patten (Fire Chief) about the roof of the HW/FD building and there are areas where it is leaking and should be addressed, especially if it is going to have solar panels put on it. Steve Duzbak spoke to the Board regarding the solar project that had been investigated. Due to a lack in response to the RFP that was put out the solar project is on hold for now. He also stated he had been on the roof prior to the RFP going out and the roof itself is in very good shape, there are 3 areas that could be causing leaks, the cap area, the furnace vents and where it looks like there was an old vent which was removed and a sheet of metal was used to cover the hole and screws were used to secure it to the roof.

Chairman Jacques asked if there were any warrant articles in the works by the Select Board. Those will be available at the next meeting. Also, Dallas Patten will be asked to attend to discuss the Fire Dept budget requests, since he was not able to attend due to the weather.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Submitted by,  
Tamara Butcher