

BUDGET COMMITTEE

JANUARY 18, 2022

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes until approved by the Board.

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

Present: Ken Jacques, Chair; B. Manning, Tim Cook, Darrin Patten, Whit Smith, Justin Hastings, Bryan O'Day, and Jeff Milne.

Absent: Ex-Officio Amy Lewis.

Also present Select Board Chair Dick Hendl; Road Agent, Peter Abair, Fire Chief Peter Lacaillade, Assistant Chief Kevin Roberts, and Jack Hedges.

Minutes January 11, 2022. Whit reviewed the conversation noted in the last full paragraph. The last sentence "The Budget Committee agrees with doing this" was removed. B. moved to accept the January 11, 2022 minutes, as amended; seconded by Darrin and approved by all except Bryan abstained due to his absence at the meeting.

Highway Department: Pete reported he has no planned capital expenditures for equipment for this year. He is still waiting for the new truck that was approved in 2021. So far, they have been able to work with the other two trucks.

Paving: Shim & Seal 1-4312-132 Pete is proposing \$110,000 to grind the pavement on the steepest part of Hogg Hill from the intersection of Stoney Brook Road to the white farmhouse (164 Hogg Hill Road). A 2" layer of base material will be put down, and then 1.5" of pavement overlay. He hopes an overlay to Coniston Road at the same time. Culverts will be replaced on the entire road and prep work done before paving in the summer. The last section of Sanborn Hill Road will be ground and put back as gravel if that can be taken care of when the grinder is in town. The Board discussed that the highway budget is flat, except for about \$55K more due to the scope of the Hogg Hill project.

Dick Hendl noted \$87,000 more will be needed for the sand shed site preparation and asked if that money should come from the Highway budget or some other place. Budget members suggested a warrant article.

Fire Department: Peter Lacaillade, Kevin and Jack reported to the Board. Kevin stated the truck committee has talked to 8 vendors and met with 5 of them. They have 5 viable estimates. The committee has been putting together specifications for a truck to replace Engine 2 that will do the job they need it to do. They are looking to stream-line and maximize compartment space. They have estimates from high 400K to 800K. To purchase and equip a truck to meet the needs of the Town now and in the future the cost comes in at \$525K, and includes front suction, new ladders, and radios. There are some stock cab and chassis available right now, but it cannot be guaranteed they will still be available in March. If not, it is possible that it could take up to 2 years for a truck build to be complete.

Whit reported he has done some research into funding through FEMA. Springfield would qualify for a ten-year loan to borrow 100% of the purchase price, with no down-payment needed through the USDA. This would result in a savings of about \$1,000 per month over other financial institutions. There is no pre-payment penalty. An application could be filed now, to be contingent on town-meeting approval. He will continue further research.

Budget Committee members asked questions related to the truck specifications. The Fire Department has not settled on a specific vendor. The next truck replacement will be in 15 years. The department is trying to get on a rotation with their trucks to spread out replacement costs, keeping in mind needs of other departments. The town has no other debt service obligations currently.

B. commended the Fire Department on their research and development for a truck purchase and replacement program. Other Board members agreed.

Pete L. reported the proposed operating budget of the fire department has remained level. There was a brief discussion regarding the feelings regarding capital reserve funds.

Police Cruiser: Dick reported on the status of the Police Cruisers both cruisers are not in good shape. There is reasonable assurance of getting \$50K through the 90/10 grant for one car. Estimated cost of a new cruiser is \$60K. The town cannot buy a second cruiser relying on ARPA funds, but they can buy a cruiser and if the grant is approved the town could be reimbursed.

Dick noted that looking at the final expenditure report Jill sent out today, there is \$106,000 left in the bottom line. \$95K was encumbered to pay for the highway truck when it is available. There will not be enough left to do the computer server upgrade or the electrical work. The Selectboard will work on appropriations for that.

Following a brief review of the proposed operating budget 1-4194-136 heating of all buildings should be increased to \$22,000. A posting error to account 1-4191-132 Planning Circuit Rider will be corrected, and the appropriation will be reduced from \$4,000 to \$3,000.

Those corrections will be made, and new worksheets sent to the Board.

The next meeting of the Board is Tuesday, January 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by,

Janet Roberts.