

BUDGET COMMITTEE

January 17, 2023

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, Whit Smith, Justin Hastings, B. Manning, Darrin Patten, Jeff Milne, Tim Cook, and Bryan O'Day Ex-Officio member: Dick Hendl

Also present Select Board member Poul Heilmann, Road Agent Peter Abair and Tim Hayes
Select Board member Amy Lewis arrived at 8:40pm

Ken asked for a roll call. All members were present including the Select Board representative.

Minutes of January 10th Jeff moved to approve, Tim seconded Board approved

Ken began the discussion asking for someone to speak to the Highway budget and what they are requesting. Poul gave a summary of 3 items the Department is looking to fund this year. Paving the remainder of Hogg Hill, a quote received mid 2022 from Pike was \$138,500. This will be an overlay and will also include Coniston Road. A third employee for the Department and replacing the 2008 Sterling truck with a newer used truck. The Town purchased the truck in 2013 and Pete feels he could find a 2018-19 used truck for \$80K. This would be funded through a 3-year non-lapsing warrant article to give time to find the right truck for the Town. The paving is an item that has been discussed over the past year plus so it is not something new. The portion of road to be paved has 5/6 culverts that will need to be replaced prior to the work and some rocks that have pushed up will need to be removed. All ditching was done last summer. Historically the Department had three employees and for whatever reason when they left a replacement was not found. There are multiple reasons to have three employees; safety is the most important, coverage when someone is out sick or on vacation is another. Peter is planning to retire in June and having a third employee whether they are hired to replace Peter or hired as an equipment operator prior to Peter leaving would be beneficial to the Department. When asked about trying to find someone to fill a part-time position the response was that part-time help is very difficult to find. Tim knows of individuals that are very interested in working for Springfield on a full-time basis.

Discussion of what the transition would look like resulted in:

Peter would continue to be Road Agent until the end of April, He would then stay on until the end of June. The individual hired to replace Peter as Road Agent whether it be from within or outside would start that position the beginning of May, with a two month overlap with Peter. The third employee would start working the beginning of July.

Tamara will update the budget with the above scenario and send to the Board members for review prior to the next meeting on the 24th.

Submitted by,
Tamara Butcher
Administrative Assistant

