

BUDGET COMMITTEE

February 8, 2023

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

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 members Poul Heilmann and Amy Lewis

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

Jeff moved to accept the minutes of January 24th, Bryan seconded Board approved.

Ken opened the Budget Hearing at 7:05. The Board worked through the budget section by section asking for comments from the board and the public. Each section was unanimously approved with no changes. The budget bottom line for 2023 is \$1,776,441.

Question from the public as to what the raise rate was for town employees. Dick responded with the Select Board once again decided on the same amount that the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits would be 8.7%. The Board has historically followed the SSI COLA increase amounts and this year is no different. A member of the public felt that when everyone else was only seeing a 4% raise that the amount was excessive. Dick and the Board felt that to keep the valuable employees the town has following the SSI was the prudent thing to do.

Discussion of the Unreserved Fund Balance of \$413,515 and the rollover of approximately \$85,095 unspent from 2022 which would bring the total to close to \$500,000. Board discussed the ideal amount to have in the URFB and how starting Capital Reserve accounts would play into that.

Question/comment from the public as to the town needing to establish Capital Reserve accounts so that when large purchases are needed there would be money to use. Having Capital Reserve accounts would allow for a lower URFB amount. Ken voiced that this was not the meeting to be discussing whether or not the town should have Capital Reserve accounts but that is a discussion that should happen.

Board reviewed Article 3 of the Warrant

To see if the Town of Springfield will vote to appropriate the sum of \$80,000 to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance for the purpose of either purchasing a USED truck or retrofitting the current 2008 Sterling with a new stainless-steel body. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the purchase or retrofit is complete or December 31, 2025, whichever is sooner. The Springfield Select Board and the Budget Committee recommend the appropriation. (Majority vote required).

Board unanimously approved Article 3.

Hearing closed at 8:10

Meeting adjourned at 8:11

Submitted by,
Tamara Butcher
Budget Committee
Administrative Assistant