

## February, 8th 2022 5:30pm Town Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Susan Finnegan, Christine Abdelnour-McKenna, Dean Priebe, Bill Chase.

### **Committee Organizational business:**

Meeting was called to order at 5:31pm by Susan.

We had not voted on our chairperson this year, it was an accidental oversight so Dean nominated Susan for chairperson, Christine seconded. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

Meeting minutes will be taken by Christine Abdelnour-McKenna moving forward.

We discussed the prior meetings and the prior minutes. Dean then made a motion to accept the prior meetings minutes, Bill seconded, called for a vote and all approved.

We discussed having an additional meeting in the summertime to see how the budget is doing halfway through the year. Everyone was in favor of this and we plan to meet again in the summertime.

### **FY2022 Budget Discussion**

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to discuss the highway budget in further detail and sign the official Town Operating Budget.

If you refer back to our previous meeting minutes, we discussed the increase in the highway budget through the years. The highway department accounts for \$450,000 of the town's total operating budget. We were informed the costs were associated with materials increasing as well as fuel costs. We are concerned about the consistent increases and what can be done to get ahead of these. It seems through the years we have had a lot of equipment breakdown that has led to unexpected expenses. We also discussed that the paving budget had increased significantly by \$25,000 and from our understanding last year we were not able to get the roads resurfaced that the highway department had planned to. Ultimately, we are concerned about the consistent increases and unexpected major expenses and this has been a budget committee discussion for at

least three years now. We discussed how we are not trying to micromanage the highway department's budget, but get a better understanding of the high costs and how the costs are going to budget for the future.

Christine suggested we attend the next select board meeting to clarify some misunderstandings regarding this. After we discussed this Christine made a motion that we attend the next select board meeting as a budget committee, Susan seconded, we voted, and all were in favor. We believe this meeting is on February 17th at 6pm but we will clarify beforehand. We also discussed whether or not we should request a separate meeting with the select board instead, ultimately, we decided we will not require much of their time at all so the scheduled meeting should be fine.

Bill made a motion to approve the overall operating budget of \$1,514,235.00, Susan seconded, we voted all were in favor.

Bill made a motion to approve the warrant articles, Christine seconded, we voted and all approved.

The budget committee signed the operating budget for FY2022

Bill made a motion to close the meeting, Susan seconded and we voted, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned @ 6:47pm The next time we will meet is the Selectboard Meeting on February 17th, 2022 at the town hall 6:00pm

I, Christine Abdelnour-McKenna, have typed these minutes.