

# January 11th 2024 7:00pm Town Budget Committee Meeting

## Minutes

Attendees: Susan Finnegan, Christine Abdelnour-McKenna, Bill Chase, Kevin Powell, Frank Reeder

John Snowden attended as a public town citizen

Meeting was called to order by Susan at 7:02pm.

### **Committee Organizational business:**

The purpose of this meeting is to go over the school board and select board budget. The 2023 actuals came in lower than budgeted.

### **FY2024 Budget Discussion**

The school board is looking to add a warrant article to be added for the purpose of increasing teacher salaries. Our teachers are underpaid when compared to the rest of the district and this increase would really benefit the teachers.

The school board is looking at solar this year to help with the electric cost.

Town salaries had a 3% increase across the board.

The town selectboard has been increasing the highway department salary over the last few years to make it more consistent with the region, and they have been slowly increasing them over the years.

Ambulance contract went up to \$9,520 for the year as expected and this is year 2 of the 3 year contract. The town has been very happy with this service and the selectboard has received a lot of positive feedback to those that have used the service.

The highway department is planning to pave McAdam and Glebe Road in 2024

**The budget committee approved the following categories unanimously, each member approved and there were no objections.**

4130, 4140 4150 4153 4155 4191 4194 4195 4196 4210 4215 4299 4220 4240  
4290 4311 4312 4316 4324 4411 4414 4415 4441 4442 4520 4550 4583 4611 4711  
4721 4723

**Warrant Articles:**

The budget committee voted to approve articles 1,2,3, and 4. With minimal discussion

5. Budget committee approved and supports the warrant article to add funds to the bridge repair capital reserve fund.

7. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to purchase he fire department a generator.

8. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to add funds to the highway department capital reserve fund

9. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article for the highway department to purchase a new loader for the town

10. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to add the funds to the town hall repairs capital reserve fund

11. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to raise the funds to have the town hall painted.

12. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to add funds to the grant matching fund. This is so we can apply for more grants because some grants require you to have a certain amount of money to match. This fund currently has \$10,000 in it.

13. The town recycling center wants to go to a pay by bag system and would need to purchase bags for the townspeople to purchase. This would make the annual dump sticker invalid, the budget committee approves this article

14. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to add \$10,000 to the fire equipment reserve fund

15. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to add \$10,000 to the highway equipment capital reserve fund

16. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to add \$9,369.59 that is remaining from the fire department build and add it to the Fire Equipment capital reserve

17. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to raise funds to inventory and assess town culverts and drainage. Our town culverts have never been assessed or graded and with all the runoff water increasing through the years this is a really smart decision for our town.

18. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to raise the funds to convert all our tax maps to digital format

19. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to raise funds to install a library fire alarm system

20. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to add funds to the operating budget.

21. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to modify the Veterans tax credit from \$200 per year to \$500 per year.

22. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to modify the disabled Veterans tax credit from \$1400 to \$2000 per year.

23. The budget committee supports and approves the warrant article to adopt RSA 72:61-64

24. The budget committee supports and approves this warrant article.

Susan called the meeting to close at 8:28 Bill seconded, all in favor of closing the meeting.