

January 18, 2022 6:00pm Town Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Susan Finnegan, Christine Abdelnour-McKenna, Bill Chase, John Snowdon, Russ Austin

Kevin Powell was not able to make it tonight.

Committee Organizational business:

The purpose of this meeting is to review the warrant articles and continue to work through the budget.

FY2022 Financial Performance Review

Overall the actual spending was much lower than budgeted but mostly because some projects and expenses have been slotted for 2023 instead so that it can save the town some money.

FY2022 Budget Discussion

Budget line item 4215- We still have not heard from Keene Fire Dept about the cost to have the ambulance contracted for Westmoreland for 2023, Jodi is calling consistently and hopefully we will hear soon.

The budget committee approved the following Articles unanimously, each member approved and there were no objections and very little discussion Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18.

Article 5- We discussed the lighting upstairs needs to be updated and right now is the time since the ceiling is currently ripped apart due to the construction. Bill motioned that we vote to approve, Susan seconded, all are in favor.

Article 6- This money would be put into a fund for grants. Most grants require the town to put a certain amount of cash upfront to get the grant, as a partial contribution on our part as well. Christine motioned to approve, Bill seconded, all in favor.

Article 7- This is for Fire Department Equipment, Susan called to vote to approve, Christine seconded, all in favor.

Article 8- This is for Highway Department Equipment, Bill called to approve, Susan seconded, all in faovr.

Article 9- This article would be to vote for the town to open an account for Emergency Equipment and they would deposit \$1,500 into the account. Christine called to approve, Susan seconded. All in favor

Article 10- This gives the selectboard the ability to create and develop the Westmoreland Community Power Plan. Susan called to approve, Christine seconded, all in favor.

Article 15 & 16 We decided to hold off on voting on these because we are not sure what the elderly tax discount currently was as well as the Veterans discount. We will discuss this more at our next meeting.

Susan called the meeting to close at 6:48 Bill seconded, all in favor of closing the meeting.

Meeting adjourned Next meeting is to be determined and we will set a time via email