

# Office of Board of Selectmen

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## Budget Committee Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes

Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Tioga Meeting Room, Belmont Mill

Chairman Ronald Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Also present were Mark Ekberg, Assistant TA Alicia Jipson, Mark Roberts, Tina Fleming, Sel. Rep. Ruth Mooney, Chief Mark Lewandoski, Finance Director Katherine Davis, Tracey LeClair, Sharon Ciampi, Albert Akerstrom, Chief Mike Newhall, and Woody Fogg.

Present via the Zoom link dedicated to tonight's meeting were members Norma Patten, Gary Grant, Ken Ellis, Roland Coffin, and Justin Borden. Also present via Zoom link was Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Donna Cilley, Sarah Whearty, and Craig Clairmont. Those members not present in person at the meeting had previously confirmed that they had a viable reason for not being able to attend in person. Chairman Mitchell noted that all votes would be by roll call.

### Minutes

Ruth Mooney moved the minutes of the meeting held on December 14, 2021 as written; seconded by Roland Coffin. Chairman Mitchell called for a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

### Police Department

Chairman Mitchell requested that Selectman Mooney give an overview of the Board's decision. It was noted that the Board of Selectmen had revised the Police Department budget relative to non-union, command staff positions, as the wages were out of line with existing union staff and the Board wishes to support continuity and fairness within the department.

Chairman Mitchell requested an update from the Chief regarding the status of the unfinished items at the new station. Chief Lewandoski noted that most of the items have been completed; we are waiting for Irving to fill the tank for the generator and a few minor items on the punch list relative to the elevator. The gate is not presently in use due to the rear of the property still being open for snow removal.

TA Beaudin explained that Selectman Pike had made recommendations at the BOS meeting to reduce 3-line items within the department's budget to help offset the increases; Chief had concurred. Mark Roberts inquired if he was comfortable with the reductions and the Chief agreed that he would do his best to work within the changes. It was noted by Chairman Mitchell that the department's police dog Vito would be retiring. Chief explained that currently we do not have an officer ready to take on a replacement but certainly hope to in the future.

Tracey LeClair moved to approve the recommended bottom line amended by the Board of Selectmen relative to the Belmont Police Department budget, the new recommended amount is \$2,437,942; the motion was seconded by Albert Akerstrom. Chairman Mitchell noted there were no further questions and called for a vote of the Committee; roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**Public Hearing**

Chairman Mitchell opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. in accordance with RSA 40:13, II-a (c) relative to the 2022 Town of Belmont proposed budget. He reviewed each of the line items contained on the MS737, including anticipated offsetting revenues, individual and special warrant articles and the final amount anticipated to be offset by taxes. Chairman Mitchell noted there were no questions on the proposed budget and called for a vote of the Committee; roll call vote was taken and the vote was unanimous to support the recommended budget of \$15,675,897.

Chairman Mitchell opened the public hearing in accordance with RSA 40:13, II-a (c) relative to the 2022 Sunray Shores proposed budget. He reviewed the anticipated appropriation by the Water District and the offsetting revenue. Chairman Mitchell noted there were no questions and called for a vote of the Committee; roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.


Chairman Mitchell reminded those present of the need to sign up for office beginning January 19<sup>th</sup> with the Town Clerk. He thanked everyone for their participation this year.


Albert Akerstrom moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Tracey LeClair and all were in favor.

It was noted that there would be no second hearing on the budget which had been potentially scheduled for January 18, 2022. TA Beaudin reminded everyone to come in to Town Hall to sign the MS737.

  
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Ronald Mitchell, Chairman


  
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Tracey LeClair, Vice Chairman


  
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Albert Akerstrom

  
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Ken Ellis

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Roland Coffin

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Norma Patten

  
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Tina Fleming

  
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Sharon Ciampi

*Justin David Borden*

Justin David Borden

*Mark Ekberg*

Mark Ekberg

Ruth Mooney, Sel. Representative

*Mark Roberts*

Mark Roberts

*Gary Grant*

Gary Grant