



Office of Board of Selectmen

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Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 3, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Belmont Mill
Tioga Meeting Room

Present were TA Alicia Jipson, Assessing Administrator Colleen Akerman, Selectmen's Representative Ruth Mooney, Chairman Ron Mitchell, Vice Chair Tracey LeClair, Norma Patten, Sharon Ciampi, Gary Grant, Lisa Crocker, Bob Chapman, Albert Akerstrom, Roland Coffin, and Marsha Campbell. There were no Zoom participants.

Members Justin Borden and Mark Roberts were absent.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:47pm.

Approval of Minutes:

12/13/2022:

Albert Akerstrom moved the minutes of the meeting held on December 13, 2022 as written; seconded by Roland Coffin. The motion passed unanimously.

Default Budget Review:

TA Alicia Jipson reported the Fire Department union contract was ratified just this week and those numbers are being entered into the budget now. There is an amended total for the wages only. The rest of the Fire Department budget has already been approved.

Vice Chair Tracey LeClair moved to amend the Fire Department Budget lines 01-4220-102 through 01-4220-104 and 01-4220-109 through 01-4220-116 to an amended total of \$650,221.33 for the newly ratified three-year union contract. The motion was seconded by Bob Chapman and passed unanimously.

TA Jipson stated the final totals will be reviewed and updated for the next meeting. Finance Director Katherine Davis explained that medical, dental and other fringe benefits are contingent on wages. Some of these values may still change because of recent default contract numbers and the new union contract that just came in.

Ruth Mooney asked where we are at with our total budget so far. If the budget does not pass, we have to go to a default budget. TA Jipson replied if that happens, none of the union contracts will pass. Only contracts that were entered into in 2022 will be included, such

as Casella. Finance Director Davis noted everyone has worked really hard on this budget, and the default budget is only a \$370,000.00 difference from the proposed budget. R. Mooney commented that is not a lot. Director Davis agreed, saying the difference is trivial on a \$10,000,000.00 budget with 8% inflation. Chairman Ron Mitchell observed that everyone is having problems with inflation but it does not seem to be changing the way people live.

T. LeClair asked about the difference between the Budget Committee's budget numbers compared to the Board of Selectmen's recommended numbers. There was discussion about some of the differences including personnel changes that happened after the Board of Selectmen's approval, and those changes affect wages, taxes and benefits. Some new lines were created and old lines removed.

Anticipated 2023 Revenues:

R. Mitchell asked about revenue from the hydro dam in Lochmere. TA Jipson reported the Town receives a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) from the Lochmere Dam Association which is billed semi-annually, and it is part of the tax rate setting process. Director Davis stated it is a payment received into the general fund instead of receiving taxes. There is a contract that both parties agree on.

T. LeClair questioned the amount of the Special Revenues Fund. Director Davis explained it includes the items for the Fire Department from the ambulance fund, as well as revenue from other PILOTs, including Belmont Elderly Housing. The number will potentially be at \$563,000.00 and includes the fire pumper refurbish and the ambulance down payment. There are a few years of overlap between leases, and it is taking about a year to get any vehicle that is ordered.

R. Mitchell asked about extra Highway Block Grant money for 2022. TA Jipson said it is in the 2022 line under Highway Block, and the proposed budget does not include those additional funds. Director Davis informed the Committee the State had a surplus in 2022 and gave the Town an extra \$165,000.00. There was also \$125,000.00 for Bridge Aid. Those were one-time things and additional funds are not expected going forward. All revenues are estimates and they are revised up until the tax rate is set in October or November. Projections are based on what we have received so far. R. Mitchell stated it is pretty good to review a \$10,000,000.00 budget with \$5,000,000.00 in revenue without property taxes.

The Committee also received the proposed budget for Sunray Shores Water District. It will be voted on next week. Director Davis outlined how a water district operates for new members. They have their own budget and oversight but it has to go on the Town warrant to raise the taxes because the Town collects property taxes for everyone.

There was discussion about Sunray Shores Water District's need to replace their water distribution system including the well pump. This will be placed on the Sunray Shores Water District ballot, not on the Town ballot.

2023 Elections:

Upcoming vacancies for Budget Committee:

3-year Term (expires 03/31/2026):

Norma Patten

Roland Coffin Jr.

Gary Grant

Vacant (Marsha Campbell appointed until 2023) – Tina Fleming’s former seat

2-year Term (expires 03/31/2025):

Vacant (Bob Chapman appointed until 2023) – Mark Ekberg’s former seat

1-year Term (expires 03/31/2024):

Vacant (Lisa Crocker appointed until 2023) – Kenneth Ellis’s former seat

The Board of Selectmen will need to re-appoint a representative. Selectmen Ruth Mooney is currently appointed until 2023.

Sign up dates are January 25, 2023 through February 3, 2023.


Other Outstanding Items: None.

Public Hearing:

The public hearing on the budget will be on Tuesday, January 10th, 2023 at 6:30pm with a second public hearing to be held Tuesday, January 17th, 2023 at 6:30pm if necessary. The agenda will include the Town Budget, Default Budget and Sunray Shores.


Adjournment:

T. LeClair moved to adjourn at 7:39 pm; seconded by S. Ciampi. The motion passed unanimously.


Chairman Ron Mitchell

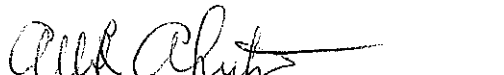

Vice Chair Tracey LeClair



Norma Patten

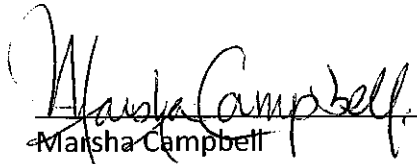

Sharon Ciampi

Justin Borden


Mark Roberts

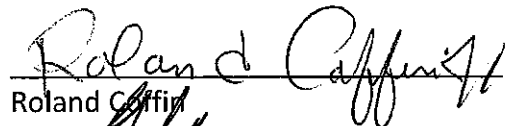

Albert Akerstrom

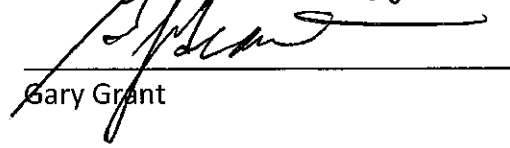

Robert Chapman


Marsha Campbell


Selectman Ruth Mooney


Lisa Crocker


Roland Coffin


Gary Grant