



Select Board

Budget Meeting

Thursday January 14, 2021 @ 4:00pm

Via Zoom Remote Access

MINUTES

I. Chair Kristin Hutchins called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm;

Present: Board members Carolyn Ball, Chad Terry, George Jellison, and Allen Willey.

Town Manager, Justin VanDongen, and Admin Assistant Jesse Dunbar.

II. Budget Hearings:

Highway – The proposed FY 22 budget was reviewed. Willey asked about the possibility of adding a third position, felt that there were liability issues when the crew has no flagger. Discussion was had on the street sweepers needing replacement in the near future. Terry suggested keeping a watch on auctions for one. The Manager explained he has looked into getting a bobcat articulating L28 loader and has added this item to the CIP. There is an increase in salaries due to the negotiated 3% raise, as well as insurance.

Harbor – The Manager said the moorings and chains will need to be inspected, the Harbormaster Jesse Gilley will be doing these inspections. The Harbormaster has already taken care of some violations in his first day on the job. Jellison mentioned there is an issue with the float that is still in, due to a broken ladder and hooks on one side there is only one usable side for boats to dock on. The salaries line has increased with the creation of the Deputy Harbormaster position.

CEO/LPI – Salaries have increased, discussion was had about the 3% increase to the CEO's salary.

Administration – The Manager said 3 people will be trained on BMV. There was a discussion on employee vacation time. Hutchins suggested the Board really needs to insist the employees use it and no longer offer exceptions. Jellison inquired about the Managers mileage allowance, the Manager informed the board it was not mileage based and also included reimbursement for his phone.

Reserves / CIP budgets were reviewed. Revaluation will need to take place at some point for the town, the Manager explained the difference between this and the quarterly work that the assessor does, it is much more labor intensive.

Discussion was had on the lower town dock restrooms needing to be replaced. The Manager said he was soliciting bids for the deck replacement into the water/sewer office.

Small Projects Reserve – The town would like to replace the granite wall on Fernald Point that needs work, as well as work on drainage along Harbor Ave.

Jellison asked about the water/sewer leak before Alder Lane that has had cones up for 10 days. The Manager said the crew was working on locating it and believes it may be an overwhelmed sewer line that may have drainage improperly connected to it.

Discussion was had on the Community Service Organizations funding requests. There was discussion on Mt Height Cemetery and members of the Board were concerned that the organization does not do enough fundraising.

Motion by Terry to strike \$44,000 from Mt Height Cemetery Reserve line. Second by Willey. Passed 4-1-0 with Hutchins opposed.

Motion by Terry not to add \$2500 to the Historic Cemetery Committee Reserve line this budget cycle. Second by Willey. Passed 4-1-0 with Hutchins opposed.

Discussion was had on moving the tree fund reserve to operational accounts.

Discussion was had on the request from the Southwest Harbor Tremont Chamber of Commerce. Terry felt it should not be taxpayer funded, Jellison preferred to rejoin the Chamber.

Motion by Jellison to not fund the request from the Southwest Harbor Tremont Chamber of Commerce and instead join the chamber. Second by Hutchins. Passed 5-0-0.

Motion by Terry not to fund the Common Good Soup Kitchen. Second by Hutchins. Passed 5-0-0.

The Manager realized the Revenue sheet in the Boards binders was the FY21 Revenues, He will get the FY22 Sheet to them.

Discussion was had on the Town Managers salary increase as contract negotiations are still ongoing.

Motion by Hutchins to enter a 3% increase as a place holder in the budget. Second by Ball. Passed 5-0-0.

Discussion was had on the Police CIP account regarding the funding for the third cruiser. The Manager explained there would need to be a separate warrant article to redistribute the funds from the cruiser 63 line back into the police CIP account. This would reduce the need for funding this account for FY22 by \$10,000.

Motion by Hutchins to reduce the Police CIP Vehicles budget to \$10,200. Second by Willey. Passed 5-0-0.

Motion by Hutchins to increase the amount for the Mini Pumper in the Fire Department CIP to \$33,000. Second by Terry. Passed 5-0-0.

Motion by Terry to move the copy machines out of CIP to the operational budget and reassign those funds to the Lower Town Dock restroom. Second by Willey. Passed 5-0-0.

Next Meeting January 26, 2021 at 6pm via Zoom.

X. Adjourn

Motion by Hutchins to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Second by Terry. Passed 5-0-0

JD