



SELECT BOARD BUDGET MEETING

Town of Southwest Harbor

Town Office & Via Zoom*

5:30 p.m. ~ Wednesday, January 10, 2024

BUDGET MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Ball called the meeting to order at 5:37p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** All present. Chair Carolyn Ball, Vice Chair Natasha Johnson, Jim Vallette, Luke Damon, Chapin McFarland, Finance Becky Gatcomb, Manager Marilyn Lowell, and Town Clerk Jennifer LaHaye.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** *Request of the Town Manager for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.*

Damon motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Johnson. Vote: 5-0-0.

4. BUDGET REVIEW:

Highway/CIP/Reserves

Highway Foreman Scott Alley was present in person.

~Manager Lowell provided an overview of the budget she and Foreman Alley had put together. Manager Lowell noted that she added a seasonal position consisting of about twenty hours to help with mowing and cemetery cleanup. Manager Lowell reported that the electricity is a bit more than what was originally estimated. She took last year's amount and increased it by 10%.

~Manager Lowell advised the workers compensation matches what the town receives for a bill.

~Vehicle Maintenance – The F550 has been in the shop recently. Currently we are over budget.

~Public Restrooms – Requesting \$1,800. Scott will order supplies for the restrooms and highway.

~Line painting increased by \$500, due to the cost of paint increasing.

CIP:

Vehicles and Machinery

Board members explore if Scott could get another year out of the F550. Damon suggested pushing it another year. Scott agreed with this but advised that if there are new issues, they will need to be fixed.

~Sidewalk Construction & Replacement – Manager Lowell reported this will be adjusted with the auditor using the bond funds when received.

~Sander for 1 Ton – this equipment piece is currently due to be replaced. Members explored if this could go another year. Members of the board chose to leave the \$4,300 and zero it for now.

~Vallette explored if there were items that could possibly be shared with Tremont. Scott noted this is a possibility, however, they could run into the problem of both towns needing the equipment at the same time.

Sidewalks line – Manager Lowell noted this is more of a place holder. Vallette explored if money should be added to this line and suggested putting \$5,000. Ball noted that it fits more into the reserves. Discussion regarding adding a line in the reserves for sidewalks between 220-35 and 220-37. \$5,000 would be added to this.

~Plate compactor – due for replacement in 2028. Members agreed to put \$200 in this line.

Harbor/CIP/Reserves

Harbormaster Jarrod Kushla was present at the meeting. Manager Lowell provided an overview of his budget. Members agreed that there was no funding needed for the Harbormaster building. Manager Lowell identified a deduction meter should be added to the building so the town was not being charged for sewer services in situations when residents use the hoses to wash their boats off.

~Jackstands – Move \$31 to Harbor Maintenance line to create a total of \$200.

~Floats-members agreed they should be funded every 10 years. It was determined \$2,000 was needed to fund this year's line. Discussion of replacement of pilings took place. It was determined that they are still in good condition, and don't need replacement. It was decided to delete the \$600 requested for this year.

~Parking Lot Pavement - \$41,159, an overlay will need to be put down at the upper town dock.

~Cross Bracing Replacement- Members and Kushla agreed to take out \$3,500.

~Public Bathrooms: Zero the \$1,000.

~Harbormaster Office – Zero it out. Due to the new building.

~Dinghy Float Ramp – raise to \$1,000.

~Many items were combined with 2030 date for full rebuild.

SWH/Tremont Nursing Services

Andy Cline, member of the SWH/Tremont Nursing Service, was present to discuss the request for funds. Currently the ambulance service is averaging 500 calls of service a year. EMT's are scarce and their service relies on its volunteers. Cline notes the increase in state regulations puts more work on their employees and volunteers. They are requesting a 17% increase from last year. They are also asking Tremont for a 17% increase in funds.

Boards & Committees, Contract Services

Ann Ratcliff was present in person representing the Conservation Commission. The commission's budget is requesting \$2,500. Ratcliff reports this is mainly for funding Chris' Pond to add a picnic table and monitoring of the area. Discussion took place of creating a Chris' Pond reserve, and members were in favor. As things move forward, there will be more plans for Chris' Pond, and possible grants in the future. Johnson explored if this amount might be too low.

Discussion took place regarding the Commission, and other sources of monies in reference to the endowment they have. The Rhoades Park has its own account of funds to pull from.

- 5. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** *Adoption of a motion to confirm the date of the next budget meeting for Thursday, January 11th at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Office meeting room.*

Johnson motioned to confirm the date of the next budget meeting for Thursday, January 11th, at 5:30p.m. at the Town Office meeting room. Seconded by Damon. Vote: 5-0-0.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45p.m. Seconded by McFarland. Vote:5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer E. LaHaye
Town Clerk

APPROVED

Carolyn Ball, Chair

Natasha Johnson, Vice Chair

James Vallette

Luke Damon

Chapin McFarland