



SELECT BOARD BUDGET MEETING
Town of Southwest Harbor
Town Office & Via Zoom*
5:30 p.m. ~ Thursday, January 12, 2023

BUDGET MINUTES

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Called at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Carolyn Ball.
- 2. ROLL CALL:** All present. Chair Carolyn Ball, Vice Chair Natasha Johnson, George Jellison Jr., Jim Vallette, Luke Damon, Manager Marilyn Lowell, and Town Clerk Jennifer LaHaye.
- 3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Johnson motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. Seconded by: Vallette Vote: 5-0.

4. BUDGET REVIEW:

Jellison presented past mil rates of earlier managers and handed out examples that included each board members own property. The example showed the amount the taxes that would increase if the current budget were passed.

Highway/CIP

Scott Alley, Forman of the Highway Department attended in person. Manager Lowell presented a basic overview of the Highway budget and noted changes in why allocations of money were raised or went down. Advertising and Road Signs were able to be reduced. It was the consensus of the board they would come back to Chemicals & Cold Patch later to discuss, as there was question as to the estimate this year of \$442.

After discussion it was the consensus of the board to make the following changes listed below to specific line items within the Highway CIP

Vehicles & Machinery 221-14:

- ¾ Ton w/ plow – currently GMC; requested this year ~~\$7,943~~, decreased to \$0.00.
- 2005 Johnson Street Sweeper; requested this year ~~\$4167~~. decreased to \$0.00.
- *Plow Truck 1 currently Freightliner; requested this year ~~\$37,983~~. See equip.
221-49.
- Bobcat Wheeled Loader; requested ~~\$2,720~~, decreased to \$0.00.
- Backhoe – Currently Case 580; requested ~~\$23,333~~, decreased to \$16,000.
- Loader – Currently Case 321; requested ~~\$13,957~~, decreased to \$7,000.
- Sander for 1 ton; requested ~~\$1,000~~, increased to \$2,000.
- Plow Truck 2-2017 International 34k; requested ~~\$16,642~~, decreased to \$0.00.

Equipment 221-49:

**Anti-icing Saline Plant – Brine Maker **Equipment allocation for the line-item Brine Maker was cut to be no longer funded. The remaining balance of \$36,750 will be moved to the line-item Plow Truck Freightliner. Currently there is no building for a Brine Maker*

Harbor/CIP

Jarrold Kushla Harbormaster, attended in person. Manager Lowell provided a brief overview of the budget. Harbormaster Kushla answered questions the board members had, he said that he could complete inhouse work to keep costs down. He can complete work on the floats, and referenced the small building located in the upper municipal parking area as being a building to consider for a new harbormaster building. Kushla has been in contact with Chief John Hall who currently uses that building for storing bikes and various PD equipment. Kushla noted this would fit within the same footprint as the current building in Manset. He will be working with CEO John Larson to obtain the proper permits.

After discussion it was the consensus of the board to make the following changes listed below to specific line items within the Harbor CIP

General:

- Boat, Motor & Trailer; requested ~~\$26,422~~, decreased to \$0.00.

Upper Town Dock:

- Electrical Conduit; requested ~~\$400~~, decreased to \$0.00.

Lower Town Dock:

- Boat Ramp; requested ~~\$10,050~~, decreased to \$0.00.
- Concrete Pier Extension; requested ~~\$6,348~~, decreased to \$0.00.

~~Manset Dock incl. Hook Lot Development~~ * Changed to Manset Lot Development

- 16x24 pres. Large Floats; requested ~~\$2600~~, decreased to \$0.00.
- Electrical Conduit; requested ~~\$300~~, decreased to \$0.00.
- Float Bridge; requested ~~\$500~~, decreased to \$0.00.
- Ladder Replacement; requested ~~\$292~~, decreased to \$0.00.
- Cross Bracing Replacement; requested ~~\$3,077~~, decreased to \$0.00.
- Ramp Resurfacing; requested ~~\$3,077~~, decreased to \$0.00.
- Steel Pilings; requested ~~\$625~~, decreased to \$0.00.

Code Enforcement/LPI

Jessie Dunbar, Town Manager of Tremont was present and discussed the proposal of contracting for full time Code Enforcement Services with Southwest Harbor. This would allow for both towns to use the same Code Enforcement Officer, and John Larson could train his future replacement. The proposal would place the officer in Southwest Harbor 2.5 days a week and 2.5 days a week in Tremont. Dunbar and Manager Lowell explained that it is extremely hard to find replacements and it has been a statewide struggle for other municipalities to secure a Code Enforcement Officer. Dunbar said that the Town of Tremont would bill Southwest Harbor. The plan would include the employee on their payroll. The hope would be to start this position in July. An LPI (License Plumbing Inspector) must have a certification to practice. A Code Enforcement Officer has a time limit to complete their certification. Both towns would rely on Larson to be able to issue plumbing permits until the new LPI is certified.

Boards & Committees, Contract Services

Lee Worcester from EMR, Tony Smith from the ADD (Acadia Disposal District) were present to answer questions of the Board. Vallette expressed concern for the numbers on the cost the town is paying per trip to Casella. Worcester also is concerned with this. Worcester said a trip should include about 25-30tons. This is split between the towns taking part. Further discussion took place calculating the cost the town would be paying. $\$225 \times 5 =$ the cost per month $\times 12$ months = the year cost. (\$13,500.)

Tony Smith supplied an overview of Acadia Disposal District. For the town to rejoin the ADD the dues would be \$3,000 for the town. Smith advised that becoming part of the district this would allow the town a vote on the board. ADD is organized by a Board of Directors. Member costs are proportional to the amount of municipal solid waste from each town. The town would need to appoint a director to attend the meetings. It cannot be a Select Board Member. Vallette recommends that the board incorporate the facility fees, transportation fees, to the budget. Vallette suggests \$25,000 as a holder for recycling, he believes this is less than last year.

Members continued to discuss calculations of cost. Jellison offered the number \$0.00 and expressed he did not wish to put any money towards the budget at this time; due to the uncertainty of the Hamden Facility reopening. Ball noted this was a good point. Jellison expressed concern for having residents pay into a plan they are not using. Vallette believes a different approach will save money. Ball expressed both Vallette and Jellison both bring up good points and should be tabled and come back to it.

The Board continued to other Contracted Services.

Debt Services, Insurance, Administration/CIP

The Fire Department has paid off the SCBA Equipment. The first payment for the Main Street Project will be made next fiscal year. There are no changes in insurance, slightly more than last year. Vallette requested a breakdown of the Property and Casualty is paid for the Harbor House.

5. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Admin/CIP will be rescheduled at the end with Revenue/Reserves on January 17th, 2023.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Vallette motioned to confirm the date of the next regular meeting for Tuesday, January 17th at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Office meeting room. Seconded by Damon. Vote: 5-0.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Damon motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Seconded by Vallette. Vote: 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer E. LaHaye
Town Clerk

APPROVED

Carolyn Ball, Chair

Natasha Johnson, Vice Chair

George Jellison, Jr.

James Vallette

Luke Damon