



SELECT BOARD BUDGET MEETING
Town of Southwest Harbor
Town Office & Via Zoom*
5:30 p.m. ~ Wednesday, January 19, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 2. ROLL CALL:** Present. Chairman George Jellison Jr., Carolyn Ball, Alan Willey, Dan Norwood, Chad Terry, Manager Lowell, Town Clerk Jennifer LaHaye.
- 3.**

A. Excused Absences None

4. BUDGET REVIEW:

5:30 Island Explorer Bus Service

Mr. Murphy with the Island Explore presented to the Board. He advised that the Islander would be returning to Southwest Harbor this year. Last summer they did not run in Southwest Harbor, and the year prior did not run at all. They will restart service in June and run until mid-October. They are requesting \$10,000. Questions regarding last year's payment of \$10,000 arose. Mr. Murphy was not sure if indeed they had received those funds. Manager Lowell provided a check number and date when it was given to them. Members determined that if indeed they received their request last year that would give the town a credit of \$10,000 due to the fact the Explore did not run in Southwest Harbor last year. Mr. Murphy would further look into that.

5:45 Harbor House

Ingrid Kachmar was present by Zoom to request funds in the amount of \$59,640. These are the same funds as requested last year. Ingrid provided information regarding the programs that this money will go to. The Board did not have any further questions.

6:00 SWH Library

Erich, attended by Zoom and presented for the Southwest Harbor Public Library. He advised that they are renewing programs with Pemetec, and able to have the kids come back into the building. The Library has recently received a five star award. They are currently trying to expand their collection.

6:15 Mount Height Cemetery

No one represented Mount Height Cemetery. The Board requested another email go to them. Members were concerned there was not a representative attending the meeting when asking for this amount of money. Manager Lowell will reach out again.

Conservation Commission:

Jim Geary was present again to answer further questions the members had related to the two different reserve accounts. Discussion related to the Endowment that the Conservation Commission has established.

6:00 Recap of budget

- Create a warrant article, include fun balance and combine with the 2022-2023 budget. This will reduce the debt. Service. Mr. Dana Reed will make that change.
- Main Street project – members discussed the additional expenses. The American Recovery Act grant will be used to put towards storm drains. Mr. Reed had spoken to Annaleis regarding this grant to ensure that the funds would be appropriate for this project. She advised Mr. Reed that in fact there would be significant improvement to the water quality. Therefore it would fall under the specific requirements of spending the grant.
- Town Garage – The town will need to vote regarding the town garage by November. Members expressed the importance to put extra revenue toward the town garage.
- Salaries – Chairman Jellison expressed he was not quite comfortable with the 2.9% over what was originally figured. Other members expressed there had been a vote on it last week and were in favor. No changes made.
- Police Department – further discussion of the tasers and bodycams for the officers. Members agreed to combine the lines of tasers, and bodycams. Further discussed what would be spent in the future. Questions were asked related to a third cruiser, did not appear the Chief was asking to purchase a third cruiser, but to keep. Members discussed the benefits of keeping a cruiser instead of selling it. Often very little money is raised from selling

Mr. Terry motioned to strike cruiser line 63 and leave funding there for 61, and 62. Seconded by Mr. Willey. Motion passed unanimously.

- Generators – currently there are unknowns on how much to allocate. The generator at the fire station is a 40KW the quote Manager Lowell had received was around \$20,000. The generator for the Highway Department is 17KW and estimated quote of \$8,500.
- Emergency Repairs for cruisers –currently there is \$4500, members discussed adding an additional \$2,500 to bring it to \$7,000.

Ms. Ball motioned to add \$2,500 to the emergency repairs for the cruisers. Seconded by Mr. Norwood. Motion passed unanimously.

- Highway Department overtime – showing to have \$2,500. Manager Lowell questioned the reason why it was not included in the snow plowing. Chairman Jellison believed the ‘DIST’ would possibly if the highway responded to other after hour emergencies involving the water district. Mr. Willey advised in past years it was billed to the district.
- Mr. Terry expressed that he felt that the Fire Department should be discussed again as Mr. Willey was not in attendance the meeting prior. Mr. Terry expressed that this should looked into further, and the town is relying on a non-profit to provide the town with service. He advised Kristin Hutchins had made that plea years ago. Mr. Norwood expressed that he would like to see a working agreement between the Fire Department, and Ambulance. Chief Chisholm was present and answered further questions the Board had. The Fire Department and Ambulance Service have about a month to further work together to see if there can be a solution.

5. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Mr. Terry motioned to adopt the meeting for next Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fire Department meeting room. Seconded by Mr. Willey. Motion passed unanimously.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Terry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Willey. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer E. LaHaye
Town Clerk

APPROVED

George Jellison, Jr., Chair

Carolyn Ball, Vice Chair

Dan Norwood

Chad Terry

Allen Willey