



Warrant Committee Minutes

Southwest Harbor Monday February 16, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

via Zoom

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call — Chair Don Lodge called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Present were Warrant Committee members Alan Rosenquist, Carl Wrubel, John Williams, Ellen Pope, Lydia Goetze, and Jim Valette. Jim had to leave for another meeting at 7:00 PM; Priscilla Ksionzyk joined the meeting at 7:19 PM. Also present were Scott Ally, Hwy. Dept.; Tom Chisholm, Fire Chief; and Marilyn Lowell, Town Manager.
- II. Adoption of the Agenda - Adopted as written, motion Ellen, second Allan. Passed 7-0-0
- III. Approval of Minutes of 2/3: Approved as written, motion Alan, second by Lydia. Passed 7-0-0.
- IV. Meeting with Scott Ally.
 - A. General discussion of operating expense: question about 32.5% health insurance increase: due to employee marriage, child. Increases in maintenance items. Overall budget increase of 14.8%. Overall salary increase is 5.9%.
 - C. CIP. Noted 1-ton Ford 550 scheduled for replacement this year; probably will not be done until next. Brine generator is actually part of garage construction, so will not be done at this time.
 - D. Reserves:
 - a. Road crossing safety/maint. is for possible additional crossing signals if ever needed.
 - b. Salt and sand reserve may be slightly low, but Scott is confident that it is presently adequate.
 - c. Paving reserve is for projects scheduled this year; among other projects is finishing Freeman Ridge Rd. No other questions re: projects.
 - E. Motion to approve operating, CIP and Reserve budgets. Motion Ellen, second Lydia. Passed 7-0-0

V. Meeting with Tom Chisholm.

- A. Operating expense: noted that repair & maintenance were increase generally; Equipment purchase cost increase for personal protective equipment.
- B. General discussion of personnel lead to discussion of Tom's proposal to SB re: hiring a fireman/EMT due to FC supplementing ambulance service on occasion. It was noted that Tom is in ongoing discussions w/ambulance service and the issue is still on the table but will not be an issue in this budget.
- C. CIP. At present, all equipments/vehicles are up-to-date.
- D. Reserves. Noted that emergency equipment reserve increased to accommodate items that could be as large as an engine replacement.
- E. Motion to approve operating, CIP and Reserve budgets. Motion Don, second John. Passed 7-0-0.

VI. Meeting with Marilyn Lowell.

- A. Admin. Noted salaries increased 7.5%. No other pertinent questions. Average total increase 7.7%.
- B. Code enforcement. Noted salaries decreased 15%, due to resignation of assistant CEO Jesse Dunbar. Increase in postage, advertising. Overall increase 9.9%.
- C. Boards and Committees. No questions.
- D. Contracted Services. Discussion of Parks/Cemeteries increase for replacement plantings. Alan questioned whether the replacement of Hawthorn trees had taken into account the reason for their demise (wrong species, soil/habitat issues.) It was suggested Alan directly send a note to Jim Geary of Conservation Commission with these concerns; WC would be amenable to recommending additional funding if it turned out such was needed for any remediation subsequently requested. (note attached.)
- E. No questions on Dept Service, Insurance, Buildings.
- F. CIP. Discussion of Generator replacement line items. It was suggested that a better idea of such need might be obtained by questioning the generator maintenance contractor as to its opinion of generator condition. It was also noted that contractor would have record of generator service hours, and that generator life was more closely related to service hours than equipment age.
- G. Reserves. There was confusion as to the way new account for Property Revaluation Reserve was presented. It was determined that, because this is a new Reserve account, it needed to be presented as a Warrant item at Town meeting, and therefore, the \$92,500 appropriation had to show up as new; the \$37,000 expenditure in fiscal '23 is for the first year of 3 in the contract.
- H. Motion to approve all the above budget items as presented. Motion John, second Priscilla. Passed 7-0-0

VII. Other Business. None

- A. Schedule for 2/23 meeting with Police Chief, CSO's (Island Explorer, EMR, Mt. Height Cemetery.)

VIII. Motion for adjournment @ 7:57pm. Motion Alan, second John. Passed 7-0-0