**DUBLIN BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 5, 2021**

Present: Steve Baldwin, Nancy Campbell, Bill Gurney (Chairman), Judy Knapp, Walter Snitko (Selectmen’s Representative), K Vanderbilt and Susie Vogel

Also present: Kate Fuller – Town Administrator

Meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Gurney.

Minutes from the December 15, 2020 meeting were moved by Judy and seconded by Susie and approved as presented. 7-0

Minutes from the December 30, 2020meeting were move by Steve and seconded by Nancy. Approved as amended. Passed 7-0

**Review and voting on operating budget by departments:**

**Expense Budget:**

**Fire Department–** Judy moved to reopen the Fire Department budget, seconded by Steve. Kate stated the amount for Dispatch is $25,711.Steve moved and Nancy seconded the Fire Department budget at $267,653. Approved 6-0-1 abstain (K)

**Building Inspection:** Nancy asked why the consultant line zeroed out. Nancy asked does he not have any conflicts when he is working for someone else? Why is there $1,000 for Equipment this year when nothing was spent last year? Dues might have been waived this year due to Covid as the reason no dues were spent. Tabled until next meeting.

**Emergency Management:** Moved by Judy seconded by Steve to approve the **Emergency Management** budget at $16,713. Approved 6-0-1 abstain (K).

**Highway:** Susie suggested salt be reduced based on the 5-year average. Walter stated that we had already spent $9,400 (this was from a more updated budget reported than most of the committee was working with). Nancy asked how much had been spent on the most recent rainstorm. Slightly over $5,000 was spent on materials. Moved by Steve seconded by Susie to approve the **Highway** budget at $458,432. Approved 7-0.

**Street Lighting:** The street light repairs on 101 should happen in the next couple weeks. They will be raised a couple of feet. The solar light at 101 and GoldmineRd. is out again-Kate will talk to Roger about it. Moved by Nancy seconded by Susie to approve the **Street Lighting** budget at $10,200. Approved 7-0.

**Solid Waste:** $46,498 in hauling fees this year due to Covid. Up $7,000 from last year. Selection of haulers is based both on price and recyclable rates. Metal removal is it break even? We make a little bit but essentially it is break even. (Do you want to put in that Susie asked why we weren’t recycling?) Ins response to Susie’s question regarding our not currently recyling, Walter said the Selectboard has made a decision not to recycle due to concern over the health of the employees. They will consider reopening recycling when the daily number of Covid positives reduces. Even when we recycle there are some items that don’t get recycled, e.g., plastic. Moved by Nancy seconded by Steve to approve the **Solid Waste** budget at $163,585. Approved 7-0.

**Health Administration:** Moved by Nancy seconded by Judy to approve the **Health Administration** budget at $86. Approved 7-0.

**Welfare Administration:** BSMI asked that Retirement be added at $1. Moved by Bill seconded by Walter to approve the **Welfare Administration** budget at $14,069. Approved 7-0.

**Recreation:** Moved by Judy seconded by K to approve the **Recreation** budget at $3,345. Approved 7-0.

**Summer Playground:** Moved by Nancy seconded by Steve to approve the **Summer Playground** budget at $21,591. Approved 7-0.

**Library:** Moved by Nancy seconded by Susie to approve the **Library** budget at $111,818. Approved 7-0.

**Patriotic:** Moved by Judy seconded by K to approve the **Patriotic** budget at $1,685. Approved 7-0.

**Conservation Commission:** Moved by Nancy seconded by Susie to approve the **Conservation Commission** budget at $4,954. Approved 7-0.

Total operating budget will be voted on at next meeting after we get the information on the Building Inspector.

We do not have definitive information on how Covid might affect the timing of the Budget Hearing. If the hearing goes as scheduled it must be posted in the newspaper by January 28th.

**Revenue Budget:**

**Property Taxes:** estimated at $1,292,458. This is only a partial number.

**Land Use Taxes:** Moved by Bill seconded by Walter to approve the **Land Use Taxes** at $750. Approved 7-0.

**Yield Taxes:** Moved by Judy seconded by Nancy to approve the **Yield Taxes** at $3,000. Approved 7-0.

**Payment in Lieu of Taxes:** Did we get more than $13,861? We have actually received $20,242. This includes Dublin School, Phoenix House and forest land. Kate will check on the forest funds. Moved by Bill seconded by Judy to approve the **Payment in Lieu of Taxes** at $19,897. Approved 7-0.

**Excavation Activity:**  There are no open gravel permits in 2020. Moved by Bill seconded by Nancy to approve **Excavation Activity** at $151. Approved 7-0.

**Penalties & Interest on Taxes:** DRA recommends that we save some money to settle possible litigation and some funds for tax bills that are too small to send out. Should the $9,300 be negative since it is an anticipated expense. Kate will check since DRA provided that figure. Table until Kate clarifies the figure for Overlay/Abatements.

**Motor Vehicle Permits:** Moved by Susie seconded by Steve to approve **Motor Vehicle Permits** at $306,500. Approved 7-0.

**Building Permits:** Susie asked if this should be a higher figure? Since it offsets the Building Inspector it doesn’t matter. Moved by Walter seconded by Susie to approve **Building Permits** at $10,000. Approved 7-0.

**Other Licenses & Permits:** Susie asked about the decrease in dog licenses. Is this an issue of people not wanting to come into the town hall? Moved by Susie seconded by Bill to approve **Other Licenses & Permits** at $2,902. Approved 7-0.

**Misc. Revenue**: Moved by Bill seconded by Nancy to approve **Misc. Revenue** at $1,000. Approved 7-0.

**Shared Revenue Block Grant:** We will not be receiving Shared Revenue. Rooms & Meals might be down by 20% to $65,259. Moved by Judy seconded by Bill to approve **Shared Revenue Block Grant** at $65,259. Approved 7-0.

**Highway Block Grant:** This is an estimate from the state. We can definitely expect the first 2 payments, but the other half may not be the full amount. Moved by Judy seconded by Nancy to approve **Highway Block Grant** at $50,000. Approved 7-0.

**State & Federal Forest:** Moved by Susie seconded by K to approve **State & Federal Forest** at $1. Approved 7-0.

**Flood Control Reimbursement:** Nancy asked if we would still be receiving funds from Connecticut and Massachusetts. Kate has not heard that we would not be receiving the funds. Moved by Susie seconded by Steve to approve **Flood Control Reimbursement** at $23,314. Approved 7-0.

**Other State & Grant Reimbursements:** Kate will remove Traffic Calming, SRTS and Emergency Generator Grants. Tabled to next meeting.

**Income from Departments:** Removing DARE Program and adding $1 to Fire Department. Tabled to next meeting.

**Sale of Municipal Property:** Tabled to next meeting.

**Interest on Investments:** Moved by Susie seconded by Walter to approve **Interest on Investments** at $100. Approved 7-0.

**Rents of Property:** Moved by Judy seconded by K to approve **Rents of Property** at $22,745. Approved 7-0.

**Contributions & Donations:** Moved by Susie seconded by K to approve **Contributions & Donations** at $1. Approved 7-0.

**Publications:** Moved by Judy seconded by Susie to approve **Publications** at $100. Approved 7-0.

**Warrant Articles:**

**Health Agencies:** $7,890, increase of $500 for Southwest Community Services

**Recycling Building:** $110,000, decrease from $175,000

Meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

The next meeting to continue the approval of the Operating Budget, Revenue Budget and Warrant Articles will be Tuesday, January 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.by Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Knapp, Co- Secretary