

DUBLIN BUDGET COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2020

Present: Steve Baldwin, Nancy Campbell, Charlie Champagne (Chairman), Dale Gabel (Selectmen's Representative), Bill Gurney and Susie Vogel

Absent: Judy Knapp

Also Present: Sherry Miller, Beth Pinney and Allan Pinney

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Champagne.

Minutes from the January 7, 2020 were approved as amended.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue reviewing and voting on departmental budgets and warrant articles.

Dale reported that the BOS agreed with the BudCom *re* reducing the invasive line by \$300 in the Conservation Commission budget, making that line \$2,000, with the total budget at \$4,154. The BOS will increase the Summer Playground Director's salary by 3.1% for the COLA and Longevity increase. Dale also reported the following: David Stone is back at work, the 2007 6-wheel dump truck is back in service, the Library roof is leaking badly (cost still to be determined), the Coffee with a Cop and the Broadband informational meeting at the Community Center will be at no charge to the Town.

Continued review and voting on operating budgets by departments that had not been voted on yet:

Financial Administration: Dale clarified that the stand-up desk pulls out from under the counter when needed. Charlie moved and Dale seconded a motion to approve the **Financial Administration** budget at \$93,558. Motion failed, Y-2; N-4. There was discussion on the need to look at budgets further where lines had been underspent over a 5-year average. Nancy moved and Susie seconded a motion to reduce **Registry and filing fees** from \$850 to \$700. Motion failed 2-3-1 abstain (Dale)-line stays at \$850. Nancy moved and Susie seconded a motion to reduce **Dog fees** from \$900 to \$600. Motion passed 3-2-1 abstain (Dale). Charlie moved and Susie seconded a motion to approve the **Financial Administration** budget at **\$93,258**. Approved 4-1-1 abstain (Dale).

Cemetery: Charlie moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve the **Cemetery** budget at \$27,313. Susie asked what is included in Contract Services (stone repair and tree trimming). Bill moved and Charlie seconded a motion to remove the wall repair from the budget. Susie asked if this was something a private group could help fund? The **Special Maintenance project** line would stay at \$1. Motion passed 5-0-1 abstain (Dale). Charlie moved and Nancy seconded a motion to approve the **Cemetery** budget at **\$22,314**. Approved 4-0-2 abstain (Dale & Nancy).

Police: Charlie moved and Dale seconded a motion to approve the **Police** budget at \$364,252. Nancy asked if there was a conflict between the current personnel policy and giving out COLA raises to individuals who have been employees less than 9 months. Dale reported that the BOS was changing that part of the policy to reflect that anyone who was employed as of January 1 would be eligible for a COLA increase. Susie questioned the need to have a car running outside the Police department-the windshield needs to be clean. Based on the 5 year average for **gasoline**, Nancy moved and Bill seconded a motion to fund that line at \$6,000. Motion passed 4-1-1 abstain (Dale). Charlie moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve the Police budget at **\$362,752**. Approved 4-1-1 abstain (Dale).

Fire: Charlie moved and Nancy seconded a motion to approve the **Fire** budget at \$263,593. 2019 payroll figures include the 4th quarter payroll. The reason for the 2020 payroll increase is the new pay schedule. Charlie reported that he had talked to Rich Scheinblum at Monadnock Hospital about the costs for fire physicals. Rich is trying to

work something out with the area departments to get the cost of the physicals down. Question about who is responsible for the maintenance for the cistern at Chestnut Hill and whether the 2 cisterns are full of water. This will need to be checked out. Approved 6-0.

Highway: Charlie moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve the **Highway** budget at \$520,550. Discussion on the need to do chip sealing in 2020. If it isn't done in 2020 there will be more to do later. Bill moved and Nancy seconded a motion to fund **Oiling Projects (chip sealing)** at \$1. Motion passed 5-1 abstain (Dale). Based on the 5 year average for **Salt**, Susie moved and Nancy seconded a motion to fund that line at \$10,500. Motion passed 5-1 abstain (Dale). Bill moved and Nancy seconded a motion to approve the **Highway** budget at \$451,566. Approved 5-0-1 abstain (Dale)

Solid Waste: Charlie moved and Nancy seconded a motion to approve the **Solid Waste** budget at \$159,945. Nancy asked if tonnage was going down because the costs don't match with budget actuals. Sherry will ask Tom Kennedy about this. Motion tabled until we have additional information.

Summer Playground: Charlie moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve the **Summer Playground** budget at \$21,451. This includes the 3.1% increase for the director and associated FICA and Medicare costs. Approved 6-0.

Library: Charlie moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve the **Library** budget at \$115,114. Nancy pointed out that the FICA and Medicare should be \$4,361 and \$1,020 respectively. Bill moved and Dale seconded a motion to amend the total budget to \$115,525, which includes the new FICA and Medicare numbers. Motion passed 6-0. Further discussion regarding the Library budget. The Apollo software is being working on. The electrical upgrades to the Gowing room will come out of the 2019 budget. Susie moved and Bill seconded a motion to remove the spray foam (\$5,000) from the operating budget and make it a warrant article. Motion passed 5-0-1 (abstain) Dale. Charlie moved and Nancy seconded a motion to approve the **Library** budget at \$110,525. Approved 5-0-1 (abstain) Dale.

Review of draft warrant articles:

Article 2-Broadband-\$1,300,000- This will be a long term borrowing which requires a 2/3 vote. Bill moved and Charlie seconded a motion to recommend this article. Recommended 6-0.

Article 3-Budget article-Motion to table this article until we have an amount. Motion to table approved 6-0.

Article 4- Rescind the provisions of RSA 31:91-c-No action taken at this time.

Article 5- Establish a Revolving Fund (RSA 31:95-h) for Recycling Center user fees- This article takes away from the voter any decisions with respect to spending recycling funds and assigns this authority to the Selectboard. Several members were concerned with the reassignment of authority and with the time and effort that might be required to explain article 4 and 5 at town meeting. No action taken on this article-Dale will take the BudCom concerns back to the Selectboard.

Article 6-Capital Reserve Funds contribution - \$262,408-This now includes \$38,000 for Town Buildings Maintenance. The proposal for the different funds is as follows:

Heavy Highway Equipment- \$10,000

Police Cruiser - \$18,000

Fire Equipment \$70,000

Road Construction- \$90,000

Bridge Repair/replacement - \$25,000

Town Buildings Maintenance- \$38,000

Library Major Repair and Maintenance- \$5,000

Replenish Town Building ETF-\$6,408

Charlie moved and Bill seconded a motion to recommend this article. Recommended 6-0.

Article 7-Appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend monies from the Town Buildings Maintenance, Police Cruiser, Bridge Repair/Maintenance and Library Major Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Funds. Discussed the article, but no action was taken on it at this time.

Article 8-Advocate funding-\$3,600. Charlie moved and Dale seconded a motion to recommend this article. Recommended 4-0-2 abstain (Nancy & Bill).

Article 9-Move Civil War Monument-\$27,475- Steve Baldwin presented an estimate from Keene Monument Company of \$13,538 which includes moving, cleaning, a cement foundation and setting the monument in another place. It is not clear if both prices covered the same amount of work. There was considerable discussion regarding the necessity of moving the monument and the considerable cost involved with the project, as well as moving the monument to a location other than behind the Town Hall. It seems as though parking concerns might be settled in another way. There was also discussion about splitting the cost of any move between the town and the historical society. No vote taken on this article.

4th quarter expenses and revenue will be reviewed and any open items will be voted on at the next meeting on January 28, 2020 at 7 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Campbell, Co- Secretary