

**Dublin Budget Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 6, 2020**

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

Also present: Kate Fuller (Town Administrator), Tom Kennedy (Solid Waste) Leslie Whone and Meredith Martin (Recycling Committee) and Jeannine Dunne (Town Clerk/Tax Collector)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Gurney. Minutes from the September 29, 2020 meeting moved by Steve Baldwin, seconded by Nancy Campbell and approved as written, with Walter abstaining.

Tom Kennedy presented the **Solid Waste** budget for 2021:

No salary, wage or benefit lines are included in the budget. Unless otherwise noted, lines remain the same as in the 2020 budget.

**Training:** decrease of \$50 to \$650 - lack of training in 2020 because of Covid-19.

**Mileage:** \$1,200- same as 2020. Susie wondered why this line is the same when only \$600 and \$700 has been spent in the past 2 years. This year Tom has not been making as many trips out of Dublin because he doesn't have part-time staff to fill-in for him when he is gone.

**Telephone:** slight increase to \$996.

**Electricity:** decrease to \$1,222 from \$1,400.

**Diesel Fuel:** decrease of \$790 to \$1,629-diesel fuel has not yet been apportioned- will be done at the end of the year. The front end loader and the heater use diesel.

**Propane:** slight increase to \$725 because of price increase. It was \$1.13 last year, \$1.209 this year.

**Hauling & Disposal fees:** increase of \$4,264 to \$48,743 to account for additional tonnage and decreased recycling.

**Monitoring:** decrease of \$2,425 to \$2,175-this changes every year based on what tests are needed; less monitoring in 2021.

The Town is still looking for additional part-time help. Walter reported the Selectboard has been exploring possibilities with temp agency. Any person would still have to be certified.

Warrant article for a storage building to replace the trailers. Tom feels a building is a better option than trailers. The estimated cost is **\$100,000** with approximately **\$193,000** in the Recycling Fund. The building would only be for storage and hopefully be located in the same area as the trailers, with the opening toward the center building. It would be at ground level with a loading dock alongside of it, a foundation and a concrete floor. The building would be similar to the recycling building-3-sided and open in front.

Judy asked if Tom had been taking vacations. He has not been taking vacation and he is no longer accruing vacation time since he has already accrued the maximum hours (300) allowed under the current personnel policy. Also, he is not getting additional pay as in the past. Even though there are Highway Department employees that are certified and could fill in short term, Tom is not using them to fill in for him since Tom feels they are not familiar with the operation and they have so much highway work. Steve asked if the center could be closed for a week. Tom felt the center would be swamped the following week after it was closed. Could an arrangement to cover for Tom be made with a town like Harrisville? It was pointed out that townspeople have the option of going to Keene for could their trash and recyclables the town could pay for disposal there.

Bill said that the minutes should reflect that we are very concerned about this as both a personnel and budget issue. He stated that the Selectboard needs to come up with a solution. The auditor's report said accruals were too high.

Jeannine Dunne presented the **Town Clerk/Tax Collector** budget for 2021:

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**Mileage:** decrease of \$250 to \$950-only going to the bank once a week and only to deposit cash.

**Office/Computer Supplies:** decrease of \$1,100- no new printer or monitor.

**Services and Fees:** \$300-this is a new line to cover the yearly cost of the software for the new online services for vital records, dog and car registrations and property taxes. Credit card users will pay a fee of 3% to cover the charge to the town. People can also pay via an e-check and there is no fee. This would only require one check, for this on-line system versus the two now (NHDMV and Town of Dublin).

**Postage:** increase of \$1,310-for online services such as mailing car registrations (2,276 registrations for last year) and tax bills. Is it possible tax bills could be emailed? Once taxes are online, realtors can look at property cards and see balances due on taxes. Do other towns charge the client for postage? Walter reported that postage would be paid by the town now and in 2021 because of Covid-19 and the Town Hall being closed. This policy will be re-evaluated in 2021 before the next budget year.

Walter reported that Brian Barden submitted a warrant article to add 2 plaques to the front of the Town Hall for Korea and Vietnam veterans. The Selectboard advised Brian to include the cost of cleaning the 2 current plaques for WWI and WWII veterans.

K reported that the school district requested more money from the Town from the GOFERR (Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery) grant than the Town had received. K also stated that the Governor said that there were others funds that they could access for reimbursement or that they could get the PPE from the state for free.

Kate suggested that money might need to be put into Overlay for another lawsuit from Eversource *re* taxing utility poles-this has been ongoing since 2007. The Conservation Commission is asking for an additional \$3,000 to mow the Rotary Park. Health agencies have submitted their requests. The one agency that did not request their money in 2020 will have to re-apply this year to conform with the Town's policy.

Next meeting October 13, 2020 at 7 pm at Town Hall downstairs-Fire, Emergency Management, Recreation Committee and the Dublin Community Center are on the schedule.

Meeting adjourned 7:57 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Campbell, Co-Secretary