

**Dublin Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2022**

Present: Steve Baldwin, Nancy Campbell, Bill Gurney (Chairman), Judy Knapp, Chris Raymond (Selectmen's Representative), K Vanderbilt and Susie Vogel (via Zoom)

Also Present: Kate Fuller

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Gurney.

Minutes from the December 14, 2021, were moved by Judy and seconded by Susie. Minutes were approved as amended.

Kate provided a handout that contained the amount of funds to be encumbered from 2021: \$102,812. In addition, \$37,199.61 will be encumbered from the Transfer Station Special Revenue Account. The total encumbered funds are \$140,011.61

Kate said that we have received the PILOT payment from Dublin School. We received a notice from Eversource about possible rate increases. The \$9,600 grant for the Library downspouts has been received.

Review and voting on operating budget by departments:

Legal: Prosecutor will be \$13,500. Judy moved and K, seconded at \$13,500. Motion passed 7-0. Judy moved and Nancy seconded **Legal** at \$44,500. Approved 7-0.

Police: PD Chief bonus will not be included in any figure that COLA is figured on next year. The PD salaries are not eligible for COLA increases since they have their own salary schedule. Nancy questioned PD Misc for this year: upgrading sidearms and background checks are the main items. Steve questioned Special Detail: the difference between the expense and revenue figure goes into General Fund. Steve wants the extra revenue generated to go into the PD Equipment Misc, cruiser repairs, or someplace else in the PD budget. It was explained that department revenues all go into the General Fund to be expended as required. Judy moved and Chris seconded a motion to approve the **Police** budget at \$391,343. Approved 7-0.

Nancy moved and Susie seconded to reopen **General Government**. Passed 7-0. The ARPA line is \$132,276 which represents the remainder of ARPA funds to be spent. Total ARPA funds received are \$194,913. BOS has approved police body cameras and the remainder will be expended in 2022. Judy moved and Chris seconded **General Government** \$181,569. Approved 7-0

Fire: Nancy moved and Steve seconded a motion to approve the **Fire** budget at \$277,005. Approved 6-0-1 (abstain K).

Building Inspection: Steve felt that the budget was larger than necessary and neighboring towns had lower salaries. Steve moved to reduce the salary line from \$18,214 to \$10,000. For lack of a second the motion failed. Steve moved to reduce Inspector Telephone line to \$0 from \$612. For lack of a second the motion failed. Nancy moved and Judy seconded a motion to approve the **Building Inspection** budget at \$20,766. Approved 6-1 (Steve).

Emergency Management: Moved by Nancy seconded by Susie to approve the **Emergency Management** budget at \$10,578. (NOTE: We had to add the Medicare figure \$128) Approved 6-0-1 (abstain K).

Highway: Steve asked what the PT hourly rate was. The rate depends on the position. Moved by Chris seconded by K to approve the **Highway** budget at \$482,109. Approved 7-0.

Susie asked if BOS had re-looked at the budget for possible decreases-Chris said no.

Street Lighting: Since so many lights have burned out, the actual cost this year was low. Discussion of how to pay for repair or replacement of 8 lights in front of the Town Hall. This should be studied for action next year. Nancy also mentioned that the flag is currently not illuminated after dark. Moved by Nancy seconded by Judy to approve the **Street Lighting** budget at \$10,200. Approved 7-0.

Solid Waste: Telephone should be \$1,296. Susie questioned mileage cost since it is more than other departments. Susie moved, Judy seconded mileage to \$800 from \$1,200. Approved 7-0. Nancy moved and Chris seconded SW Telephone \$1,296 from \$1,300. Approved 7-0. Moved by Susie seconded by Nancy to approve the **Solid Waste** budget at \$173,789. Approved 7-0.

There are no changes in the warrant articles. It is expected that we will receive at least 2 petition warrant articles.

Other Business: Steve once again questioned the cell phone plans. He said that any phone paid by taxes is a public phone and can be examined. He distributed and explained a Power Point handout from US Cellular. Bill suggested that Steve share this with the BOS and that the BOS examine the proposal.

Nancy reminded us that we must set a date for the Budget Hearing. The scheduled date is Tuesday, February 8th, with February 9th as the snow day. It should be in the newspaper by January 27th.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 11: Continued review of budget and warrant articles.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A, Knapp, Co- Secretary