

Dublin Budget Committee
Meeting minutes
December 20, 2022

Present: Nancy Campbell, Bill Gurney (Chairman- via Zoom), Judy Knapp, Carole Monroe (Selectmen's Representative), K Vanderbilt and Susie Vogel

Absent: Sturdy Thomas

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm by Acting Chair, Susie Vogel.

Minutes from the December 13, 2022, meeting were moved by Carole and seconded by Nancy. Susie asked about the 5% raise for the Summer Playground Director-since it is unknown who will be the Director and what that person's qualifications will be. She also questioned whether the Cemetery wall repair would be a non-monetary item. This item should appear under Monetary warrant articles. Minutes approved as amended 4-yes 2-abstain (K and Bill).

Review of operating budgets:

Judy requested totals for each department budget before the Committee would vote on preliminary approvals. Susie asked if fuel costs would be decreased because prices were going down. The BOS didn't feel like that was a continuing trend, but hopefully the warrant article for fuel won't have to be used.

The Committee started reviewing the departmental budgets:

Executive: No problems or missing information.

Financial:

Town Clerk/Tax Collector-Question about salary with a new person. 2022 expense includes vacation pay. The Deputy is working more hours filling in for the Clerk and training the interim Clerk.

Office Supplies-Question if the budget figure was enough because \$1,436 was spent in 2022. The 5-year average for this line is \$1,463.

Postage: Budget figure (\$3,500) doesn't include any stamp increase which will be happening twice in 2023. Not all of the budget has been spent in 2022.

Carole gave an update on the unassigned fund balance which was \$1,098,278 after the 2021 audit. \$237,550 was spent from the fund in 2022 for chip sealing and capital reserve funds. The \$15,000 warrant article for fuel expenses will be taken out of the fund balance, leaving \$900,000 to cover 2 months' expenses as per the Town policy re the unassigned fund balance.

Carole reviewed the warrant articles:

Capital Reserves: \$335,000- from taxation.

Library foyer and chimney repair: \$35,500 with \$15,000 out of the Library Capital Reserve Maintenance Fund.

Library HVAC: \$44,000-Bill reported the estimate received includes both the air exchange system and air conditioning. Heat pumps were also included in the estimate. This warrant article is still being reviewed by the BOS since there is the possibility of not doing the air conditioning this year.

Chip Sealing-Lake Rd. from 101/Snow Hill Rd. to Old Marlborough Rd.- Reduced from **\$200,000 to \$100,000** because the Highway employees will do the prep work. \$100,000 from the Road Construction Capital Reserve.

Contingency for fuel expenses: \$15,000 from unassigned fund balance.

Health Agencies- \$7,986 Health agencies requested \$9,336; BOS capped this warrant at \$8,000. BOS will fully fund Home Health Care, Monadnock Family and Southwestern Community Services as they help keep welfare costs down. Because Hundred Nights, End 68 Hours of Hunger, The Cornucopia Project and The Community Kitchen don't serve as many Dublin residents as the other organizations, their requests were decreased.

Veteran's Tax Exemption: has to be re-done because of a change in the law.

Pay per Bag: This article is still up for discussion. Education needs to be done about recycling. Susie suggested Dublin School students could do a community service project re recycling.

Estimates for the Cemetery stonewall, and security cameras are still to come. The damage to the Town Hall on the Church St side and repair of it depends on the cost and what needs to be done (the Town's insurance is involved). At this time, the Town has been unable to determine what or who caused the damage.

\$60,000 has been received from the State of NH for bridges. ARPA funds will be encumbered for radios and Town Hall.

Next Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 3, 2023, bottom floor. Continued review of budget and warrant articles in 2023. Susan Peters will fill in for Carole on both January 3rd and January 10th. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Campbell, Co-Secretary