

**DUBLIN BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 31, 2023**

Present: Nancy Campbell, Bill Gurney (Chairman), Judy Knapp, Carole Monroe (Selectboard Representative) Via Zoom, K Vanderbilt, Sturdy Thomas and Susie Vogel

Also present: Kate Fuller, Town Administrator

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Gurney.

Minutes from the January 24, 2023 meeting were moved by Susie and seconded by K. Approved as amended. Motion passed 7-0

Review of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter expenses and revenue:

Kate reported that Deputy Fire Payroll was under expended because the fourth quarter, even though for work in the 4th quarter, was paid in January 2023 and their 2022 W-2s do not reflect that payment. BMSI said it had to be a 2023 expense since that is when the payment was made.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Salary - This line is over because unused accrued vacation time was paid out of this line rather than the Accrual Expendable Trust since; the BOS felt the budget could absorb this. It was suggested that for the 2024 budget, the accrual dollars need to come out of this line before giving a raise in 2024. This also skews the 5-year average.

Update on 2022 Warrant Articles:

Chip Seal-was encumbered in 2021 and used in 2022.

Solid Waste-Misc. Over because of apron paving for the new building.

Update on Revenue:

Dog fees- 25% uncollected because people don't report when a dog has died and/or it is hard to get people to pay a dog fee.

Land Use Change Tax-has now been changed to a negative number to reflect what had been done in previous years. Fiscal year balance line added on the revenue side (What did this mean? Or leave out) Susie asked what the balance was in the Conservation Commission's savings account and where would she find it? The balance was \$68,000, plus this year's \$13,340.

Judy asked if Tom Kennedy had reached the 300 hour cap on earned time and he had. At this time, there is only one other employee who has accrued 300 hours.

Sturdy moved and Susie seconded a motion to re-open the Solid Waste budget. After no discussion because our questions had been answered, Judy moved and Susie seconded a motion to approve this budget at \$172,871; motion passed 7-0.

**Total Operating Budget-\$2,469,696-** moved by Sturdy and seconded by Judy. Motion passed 7-0. This is 6.1% higher than the 2022 approved budget.

**Warrant Articles:** These are not final until the Dept. of Revenue approves them. Susie felt uncomfortable about the budget increase and questioned whether we needed all of the warrant articles, like security cameras. After discussion about what warrant articles could be cut, it was determined that they had little impact on the budget. The members of the committee therefore felt the Town Meeting should decide.

**Total operating budget--\$2,469,696-** moved by Susie, seconded by Nancy to recommend. Motion passed 7-0.

**Capital Reserve Funds: \$335,500-** same as 2022 for the various funds; funded by taxation. Moved by Carole and seconded by Sturdy to recommend. Motion passed 7-0.

**Chip Seal: \$100,000.** \$100,000 to come from the Road Construction Capital Reserve fund. Moved by Judy and seconded by K to recommend. Motion passed 7-0.

**Library: \$35,500-** repair of the wood rot damage below the entrance vestibule and chimney; funded by taxation (\$20,000) and Library Major Repair & Maintenance Capital Reserve fund (\$15,500). Moved by Carole and seconded by Sturdy to recommend. Motion passed 7-0.

**Library: \$13,500-** purchase and installation of a Minotaur Air Treatment Unit (includes electrical work) to control humidity; funded by taxation. Moved by Carole and seconded by Sturdy to recommend. Motion passed 7-0.

**Contingency Fund for fuel costs- \$15,000;** funded by the unassigned fund balance. Moved by Carole and seconded by Sturdy to recommend. Motion passed 7-0.

**Fire station insulation-\$20,000;** funded by taxation. This is for the second-floor meeting room, equipment bays and the loft area. Moved by Carole and seconded by Sturdy to recommend. Motion passed 6-0-1 abstain (K).

**Highway Barn Garage doors: \$16,000;** funded by taxation. This is for 2 doors with remotes. If the Town waits another year, there could be price increases. Moved by Carole and seconded by Sturdy to recommend. Motion passed 7-0.

**Dublin Advocate: \$3,600** Moved by Carole and seconded by Sturdy to recommend. Motion passed 5-1 (Nancy)-1 abstain (Susie).

**Health Agencies: \$7,986.** Moved by Carole and seconded by Sturdy to recommend. Judy would like to see Home Health Care, Monadnock Family Services and Southwestern Community Service in the cooperating budget like they had been at one time. Susie felt the BudCom should recommend this motion because the Selectboard did what we asked them to do. Judy could not support some of the charities on the list as health or welfare agencies. Motion passed 4 Yes (Sturdy, Carole, Nancy and Susie); 3 No (Judy, K and Bill).

Various **Expendable Trust Funds: \$7,400.** Moved by Carole and seconded by Sturdy to recommend. Motion passed 7-0.

**Capital Reserve Fund for Exterior Maintenance of Town Buildings-\$10,000;** funded by taxation. Moved by Carole and seconded by Sturdy to recommend. Motion passed 7-0.

No votes were taken on the security cameras or for the Easement at the Post Office-the committee didn't have the wording for these 2 items. Remains of the agenda.

Motion to adjourn by Sturdy seconded by Judy. Passed 7-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 7 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E, Campbell, Co- Secretary