

Budget Committee Minutes
Tuesday 12/19/2023

Present: Bill Gurney (Chair), Nancy Campbell, Judy Knapp, Sturdy Thomas, Carole Monroe and Susie Vogel

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Minutes were tabled as K Vanderbilt was not present and took notes for the last meeting.

Discussion about who, if anyone, to invite back to meet with the committee.

Library

Line 01-4550.1-112 - Library has hired a custodian but did not include snow shoveling.

Committee requested the Library Chair come back to discuss.

Fire Department

01-4220.1-115 Discussion about the increase in the FD Secretary line. Questions about why reports are increasing costs. It is believed to be increase in calls and paperwork related to calls.

Grant writing has \$2,000 in last years budget under Secretary, moved to Executive and \$4,000 appropriated. Social Security and Medicare to go up proportionally.

Committee requested the Chief come back to discuss.

Police Department and Legal

01-4153.2-810 The prosecutor retired and will be replaced. Hancock, Fitzwilliam, Dublin and New Ipswich will share a prosecutor to be hired (or hired already). Contribution is based on percentages 65% population and 35% case load (or visa versus). Current figure of \$36,000 believed to be correct for 2024.

Committee requested the Chief come back to discuss.

Rec Committee

01-4520.1-812 There are no members on the Rec Committee. The selectboard left this line as is in the event there is a committee later.

Warrant Articles

Advocate

Advocate is up, \$4,500 vs \$4,000 in past. Questions as to why it is up from last year, postage costs? Printing costs? Requested Susie take this back to the Advocate for discussion and if the request is going to be up from last year, the Advocate come back to the committee to discuss.

Historical Society

Historical Committee is waiting for Peterborough Marble and Granite to provide an estimate to repair the Town's Civil War Monument.

Transfer Station

The Transfer Station is currently a place holder plans to be determined.

Energy Committee

Energy Committee is to establish a fund for matching grants and to put the Selectboard as Agents.

Spruce Ridge HOA

As of this meeting the selectboard has not seen a petition from the Spruce Ridge HOA.

Term Limits/School Board

It is uncertain if the term limits are a School Board warrant issue or a Town warrant issue. Selectboard to look into this.

Pay per Throw

No petition as this meeting regarding this.

Select Board

There will a number of reserve accounts where the Selectboard will be named Agents so the they may be cleaned up.

PD

This created a revolving account for details and removes those payments from salaries.

There was questions as to what the COLA for 2023 was for the Boston area. This is be researched.

Budget hearing set for February 13, 2024 and should be posted at least 10 days ahead.

Motion to adjourn.

Next Budget Committee meeting will be January 9, 2024 at 7 PM in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted

Sturdy Thomas, Budget Committee Member