

UNAPPROVED

SELECTBOARD BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2024

This meeting was called to order by Todd Davidson, Chair, at 6:05pm at the Town Office in Dummerston, Vermont & on Zoom.

Members present: Todd Davidson, Maria Glabach, Alex Wilson, Tom Nolan, Paul Adler

Members present on Zoom: none

Members absent: none

Also present: Carol Wood, Randy Hickin, Laurie Frechette, Gail Sorenson, Lyle Holiday, Linda Burns, Dave Schottland, Phyllis Emery, Larry Pratt, Dan Ridlehoover, Paul Normandeau, Ruth Hoffman, Julie Johnson-McGrath

Also Present on Zoom: Chris Brown, Sam Bledsoe, Bill Holiday

Health Insurance:

Laurie and the Board discussed the health insurance line items. There will be three people currently on the plan that will be moving to Medicare coverage in 2025. Laurie prorated the costs and presented the Board with the cost of the health insurance. Also the cost to fund the Health Reimbursement Account. She also asked the Board to consider a \$3,000 per person payment in lieu of health insurance to the three people changing to Medicare.

Fire Department:

The Board spoke briefly with Larry Pratt and Dan Ridlehoover regarding the Fire Departments request for \$110,364. Maria asked if any line items could be reduced to lower their request. They felt it should remain as requested. Ruth Hoffman, Town Auditor asked them for budget information for the Town Report.

Library:

Todd acknowledged the emails received supporting the Library. The discussion regarding the lease agreement between the Community Center and Library will be on the 12/11 agenda. The grant agreement was briefly discussed. Per the Town Grant Policy, the library can sign their own grant agreements. However, if no resolution regarding additional room rental at the Community Center has been set by January 1st, they will need to work within their current room.

General Fund:

The Board reviewed all remaining line items and updated the health insurance, HRA, and payment in lieu of insurance. Todd will look into what other towns due regarding payment in lieu of insurance.

A majority of the Board agreed to leave the Fire Department request at \$110,364. Maria felt this was too high. Tom questioned some of the proposed costs.

Alex and Tom will meet with the Library Trustees, Friends of the Library, and Community Center Trustees.

The Board will estimate a 5% increase in the County Tax.

Also, discussed was the timeline as to when the budget needs to be finalized, voted on and sent to the Auditors.

Highway Fund:

The Board decided to leave the paving in the budget and not create a separate fund.

Paul Normandeau asked about bulk/pre-buy diesel fuel pricing. Paul Adler has been research this but will look further into it.

Paul N. also asked about the Highway FY2024 compared to budget. His concern was several lines had gone over budget.

Maria will send Chris the budget worksheets, so he can update the YTD FY2025 numbers.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Maria made the motion and second from Todd, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Approved

Todd Davidson, Chair

Alex Wilson, Vice-Chair

Submitted by Maria Glabach, Clerk