

## UNAPPROVED

### BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES

December 17, 2025

This meeting was called to order by Todd Davidson, Chair, at 6:00 pm at the Town Office in Dummerston, Vermont & on Zoom.

**Members present:** Todd Davidson, Maria Glabach, Skip Fletcher, Paul Adler

**Members present on Zoom:** none

**Members absent:** Tom Nolan

**Also present:** Gail Sorenson, Ruth Hoffman, Dan Ridlehoover, Linda Burns, Eileen Lyons, Jereilyn Wilson

**Also Present on Zoom:** Catherine O'Callahan, Sam Bledsoe, Lizzy Hicken, Chris Brown, Laurie Frechette, David Shaw

#### **Budget Work:**

##### **Fire Department**

Dan Ridlehoover spoke with the Board. He stated that their operating request is increasing from \$120,859.00 to \$124,903.00. This is due to increased mutual aid assessment.

Their Capital request is decreasing from \$101,675.00 to \$66,675.00. This amount is adjusted by fundraising.

##### **Library**

The Board is suggesting budgeting \$24,900.00. The Library suggested \$36,900.00. The Board's intention is to have the Library Trustees make a presentation at Town Meeting and ask for funding for the children's program, as the grant monies have ended.

The Board briefly spoke with Linda Burns regarding the Community Center & Library. Any changes to the Library bylaws and structure will need voter approval at a town meeting. Todd would like to see a new group formed to run the Community Center building. This group would be made up of five volunteers appointed by the Selectboard.

The Trustees sent the following information to the Board:

Number of town residents who have a library card 391

Number of non-residents who have a library card 96

Maria asked how many of the 391 are actively using their card. Answer: They don't know.

Maria looked into the cost of a non-resident card at Brattleboro Brooks Library - \$65.00 yearly.

And at the Putney Library - \$50.00 yearly.

If the library would charge for non-resident cards there is potential for additional revenue.

96 non-residents cards at the Brattleboro rate of \$65.00, would generate \$5,952.00 at the Putney rate of \$50.00, would generate \$4,800.00.

Todd asked about the program attendance vs library. The numbers given to the Board were:

People walking in 1,827, this includes program attendance of 1783.

**Farmland Protection Committee**

Todd spoke with Jack Manix. Jack would like to see \$5,000.00 put into the Farmland Protection Fund. The consensus of the Board is to not fund this and look into investing at least some of the funds. Chris will look into options on investing.

**Work Sheets:**

The Board is still waiting on all of the insurance numbers from VLCT. If not received prior to needing to finalize the budget. The Board will estimate a 3% increase.

There will be no meetings on 12/24 or 12/31. The next regular meeting will be January 7, 2026 and the Board will have a budget work session following the meeting to finalize the budget. At the January 21, 2026 meeting the Board will vote on the budget and warning.

Maria will update worksheets and send to Laurie to post on the Town website.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Todd made the motion and second from Skip, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

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Approved

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Todd Davidson, Chair

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Paul Adler, Vice-Chair

Submitted by Maria Glabach, Clerk