

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO
BUDGET COMMITTEE
APPROVED MINUTES
January 4, 2022
Wolfeboro Public Library**

I. Call To Order

Chairman MacDonald opened the meeting at 6:03 pm.

Members Present: John MacDonald, Chairman, Bob Tougher, Vice-Chairman, Steve Johnson, John Burt, Bob Loughman, Matt Plache, Bob Moholland, Members, Brian Deshaies, BOS Representative, Linda Murray, BOS Alternate Representative.

Members Absent: Brian Black, Tom Bell, Members (both excused).

Staff Present: Jim Pineo, Town Manager, Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director, Lee Ann Hendrickson, Administrative Assistant.

II. 2022 Budget – Final Budget Review

Jim Pineo distributed information regarding the itemization costs associated with the purchase and updating of a police cruiser and funding of the recording unit (dispatch). He stated the Committee also received the warrant articles including tax impact. He stated as of today the default budget is \$15,692,666 and the Budget Committee's budget is currently \$15,744,534; noting a difference of \$51,868. He stated the budget for the General Fund is up 5.882%, the Water Fund is down 6.904%, the Electric Fund is up 2.247%, the Sewer Fund is up 7.321% and the Pop Whalen Fund is up 2.215% totaling an increase of 3.882%. He noted the following largest drivers for the increase in the 2022 budget; labor costs - \$322,984, health insurance - \$241,808, workers compensation - \$10,461, liability insurance - \$26,105, NH Retirement System - \$139,731, Solid Waste Tipping Fees - \$81,931, debt service - \$69,481 and capital outlay - \$46,579 (total increase of \$931,080 of \$1.1 million increase).

Bob Tougher stated the Wastewater Treatment Plant contracted services is up \$80,000.

Referencing warrant articles that are associated with ARPA funds, Bob Loughman stated the costs that would offset the warrant article should be included in the language.

Jim Pineo stated loan forgiveness cannot be included in the language of the warrant article because the funds are not a guarantee; noting such is a rule of the DRA.

Bob Loughman asked if the public will be made aware of such.

Jim Pineo stated the information will be provided at the Deliberative Session and noted the language was approved by legal counsel.

John MacDonald questioned the total for the Executive budget.

Kathy Carpentier replied \$240,989.

John MacDonald questioned whether line 550/printing was reduced from \$6,100 to \$3,200.

Jim Pineo replied yes.

Referencing the Tax Collector budget, John MacDonald confirmed that machinery and equipment was reduced from \$855 to \$0.

Referencing Agencies, specifically White Horse Recovery, John MacDonald confirmed such was reduced to \$5,000.

Referencing Zoning Board, John MacDonald confirmed advertising was reduced to \$2,500. Referencing Planning Board, he confirmed line 380 was reduced to \$4,000. Referencing Brewster Building, he asked if any of the funds within the budget could be used for the phone system.

Jim Pineo replied no, the funds are accounted for (HVAC system and oil).

Referencing Conservation Commission, specifically invasive species management, Matt Plache stated the Commission spent \$10,000 this year and asked if there would be an end to such.

Jim Pineo stated it was made clear at the meeting that it would not end. He stated the Commission manages a significant amount of properties and it would be an ongoing cost.

Steve Johnson agreed with Mr. Pineo and stated that the Lake Wentworth Association is currently dealing with the issue and has included an annual appropriation in their budget.

Bob Tougher stated he previously requested a hold on the Chamber of Commerce allocation of \$6,000 and is requesting a release of the hold and requesting the \$6,000 be included in the budget.

Referencing Animal Control, John MacDonald confirmed outside services was reduced to \$2,000. Referencing Communications, he confirmed safety equipment was reduced to \$1,000 and overtime was reduced to \$27,000.

Referencing Police Department, Bob Loughman stated an adjustment was made to vehicle maintenance.

Sherri Moore stated the line was increased from \$6,000 to \$8,000.

John MacDonald the change to Emergency Services, professional development.

Kathy Carpentier stated such was reduced to \$16,000.

Bob Loughman confirmed the budget reflects changes to fuel costs.

John MacDonald questioned the increase in part-time wages for the beaches budget.

Jim Pineo stated Brewster Academy has requested the Town provide full time lifeguards on duty at Brewster Beach moving forward.

Referencing cemeteries, John MacDonald questioned the increase in wages.

Jim Pineo stated such is associated with the cleaning of the stones; noting such is reimbursed by the Trustees.

Referencing the Water Treatment Plant, John MacDonald questioned year to date expenditure for consultants.

Jim Pineo replied \$5,000.

John MacDonald asked if the Parks and Recreation Department was able to purchase a truck with 2021 funds.

Jim Pineo stated the purchase order has been signed and the vehicle has been ordered.

John MacDonald asked if the Middleton Road pump station project could be delayed for one year.

Jim Pineo replied no and noted some of the preliminary work has been done and noted there are issue with the water being stagnant in that area of town.

Matt Plache asked if there will be more work done on invasive species management at the Front Bay and Towns Garden properties.

Jim Pineo replied yes.

Matt Plache stated the Conservation Commission's October minutes state that the consultant doesn't recommend treatment to those properties in 2022 however, the budget request reflects continued treatment.

Lee Ann Hendrickson stated he was informed that the consultant visited the sites following the October meeting and based on such recommended additional treatment for 2022. She noted Lee Gilman is also developing an invasive species management plan for the properties.

III. Other Business

- Budget Committee meeting scheduled for January 11th has been cancelled
- Budget Committee scheduled a meeting on January 13th at 6:15 PM at the Great Hall to review any outstanding items
- Budget Committee Public Hearing scheduled for January 13th at 7 PM at the Great Hall

IV. Approval of Minutes

December 9, 2021

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Bob Moholland to approve the December 9, 2021 Budget Committee minutes as submitted. All members voted in favor. The motion passed (7-0).

December 16, 2021

It was moved by Bob Moholland and seconded by Bob Loughman to approve the December 16, 2021 Budget Committee minutes as submitted. All members voted in favor. The motion passed (7-0).

December 20, 2021

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Bob Tougher to approve the December 20, 2021 Budget Committee minutes as submitted. All members voted in favor. The motion passed (7-0).

V. Public Comment

None.

It was moved by Bob Loughman and seconded by Bob Tougher to adjourn the January 4, 2022 Budget Committee meeting. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Hendrickson

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