

Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2022

Members present: Chairman Dave Senecal, Vice Chair Brad Harriman, Luke Freudenberg, Linda Murray (virtually), and Brian Deshaies.

Staff present: Parks Director Christine Collins, Assistant Director Beau Betz, and Town Manager, James S. Pineo

Chairman Senecal opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Non-Public Session RSA 91 A: 3 e

Mr. Pineo stated a non-public session is not needed.

1. Budget Hearings

Mr. Pineo stated that the Board has been provided with a summary of the budget and he met his goal of not presenting a budget higher than 7.5%; the cuts to make this goal were not easy and before the board is a budget that is up 7.23% (\$1,134,720.00).

Parks and Recreation

i. Administration

Mrs. Murray questioned the change in the wages.

Mr. Pineo replied that there is an increase to the admin assistants' hours from 20 hours a week to 29 hours a week.

Mr. Deshaies questioned the lack of funds used in printing.

Ms. Collins replied it is for pushing of the programs, during COVID-19 they had less programs, this season they will be getting back to regular programming.

Mrs. Murray questioned if that is the same for advertising.

Ms. Collins replied they hope to get back to normal staffing levels but will need to advertise for the positions.

Mr. Freudenberg questioned if Rec Desk is paid on a yearly basis.

Ms. Collins replied it is.

Mrs. Murray noted that gasoline calculation is not consistent in the budgets.

Mr. Pineo replied the cost will need to be updated at the end of the review for all budgets and then again during the budget committee's review.

Mr. Deshaies questioned travel and meetings.

Ms. Collins replied that she did her conference virtually this year but hopes to be able to have staff coverage and go next year.

ii. Maintenance

Mr. Pineo noted that as of today this department has a new foreman.

Mr. Deshaies questioned why the part time wages is so high.

Ms. Collins replied this a department that has struggled to gain employment, they have increased the wages to entice candidates. The hourly rate is higher, but there are no benefits offered for this part time position.

Mr. Freudenberg questioned line 01-45202.380 outside services, it appears to have been decreased but questioned if there will be enough.

Mr. Pineo replied that there was a misunderstanding in that line and those funds need to be put back in.

It was moved by Linda Murray and seconded by Luke Freudenberg for the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen in increase line 1-45202-380 outside services by \$3,200. Members voted being all in favor, the motion passed.

Mr. Freudenberg questioned if some of this work could be done in house.

Ms. Collins replied this line is for specialized contract work such as tree removal.

iii. Beaches

Mrs. Murray questioned the large increase in part time wages.

Ms. Collins replied that they have had difficulties with staffing especially keeping the beaches open to labor and have had to offer hire wages to hire the staff needed.

Mr. Deshaies suggested if the Taylor Community could be a place to train lifeguards.

Mrs. Murray suggested putting some clarification in to explain this increase so that its clear. She questioned the year-to-date expense in grounds maintenance.

Ms. Collins replied that was due to the addition of a gate at Brewster Beach.

Mrs. Murray questioned if the town is short on bike racks.

Ms. Collins replied yes, they have received some complaints that more are needed.

Mr. Freudenberg stated he will donate two brand new racks that he is not using.

iv. Abenaki

Mrs. Murray stated that the season has always been 13 weeks and this year the request is to up the season to 16 weeks plus the addition of a lodge staffing position. She is concerned with the amount of this increase of \$37,888 (52.6%) increase. She would agree to adding a lodge position and adding one additional week to the season at this time, but she can not support doing both at this time.

Mr. Freudenberg agrees with Mrs. Murray, they are going must make some touch financial decisions this year.

Mrs. Collins stated that they did need to raise the wages to get staffing last year and even with that, many weekends both she and the Assistant Director were working at the lodge. She stated the increased weeks is based on the request from the ski team.

Mrs. Murray agreed she saw both of them there working last winter, she would agree to 14 weeks this year.

Mr. Freudenberg questioned when they begin the prep for opening day.

Ms. Collins replied they typically start prepping two weeks prior for opening day of December 26th and even that date is dependent on the weather.

It was moved by Linda Murray and seconded by Luke Freudenberg to change the number of weeks the lodge is open from 16 weeks to 14 weeks.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Harriman questioned the groomer?

Linda Murray and Luke Freudenberg agreed to amend the motion to amend outside mountain staff, inside mountain staff and ski patrol only from 16 weeks to 15 weeks. Members voted and being all in favor, Brian Deshaies-opposed, the motion passed.

Chairman Senecal questioned how much funding is left to finish this year.

Ms. Collins replied \$25,856.

Mr. Deshaies questioned if that would be enough to open early.

Ms. Collins replied she would need to review it; they are going to be hiring three new staff members.

Mr. Pineo suggested putting that on a revisit list. He noted that they have discussed this at the staff level, you can only make snow when it is cold.

Mr. Freudenberg agreed, you can make all the snow you want but one rainstorm can wash it all away.

v. Hockey Rink

Chairman Senecal stated the Town Manager has been doing an excellent job promoting the project on Facebook.

Mr. Deshaies questioned how much public skate will be offered at the new rink.

Ms. Collins replied they always have public skate during the week, the weekends and evenings are difficult for ice time.

Chairman Senecal stated has Brewster been approved for their new rink.

Ms. Collins replied yes, they will be using a practice rink until the new rink is open.

Mr. Pineo stated the soft opening is scheduled for January 3rd; however, the locker rooms will not be open until the spring.

vi. Programs

Mr. Deshaies questioned part time wages.

Ms. Collins same answer in this budget, the need to offer higher wages to employ part time staff.

Mrs. Murray questioned line 01-45206. 380 outside services, the increase.

Ms. Collins replied staff has been cleaning the bathrooms at the Pavilion and this change will have the same company that does the dockside bathrooms and railroad station bathrooms to be consistent.

vii. Community Center

Mrs. Murray questioned how much this facility is used.

Ms. Collins replied the department uses it during the summer months, the senior center uses it, and the quilters use it.

viii. Programs

Ms. Collins stated this is for the American Legion.

Mrs. Murray questioned if they had any changes.

Ms. Collins replied she would check in with them.

ix. Fireworks

Ms. Collins replied that no bids were received, the market for this is small and due to inflation and unknowns the vendors are not ready to bid at this time.

Mrs. Murray stated they will have to revisit this line.

Mr. Deshaies questioned the \$21,200.

Ms. Carpentier replied that this line includes the laser light show this year, even though there were donations to off set it.

x. Clark House

No comments

xi. Cemeteries

Mrs. Murray questioned if this is hired maintenance.

Ms. Collins replied they have been doing these with the full-time staff. They have a separate crew for restoration and now they are doing another program of taking photos and documenting the cemeteries.

xii.Pop Whalen

Mrs. Murray stated that the Friends of Pop Whalen provided a business plan that included a full-time employee with benefits. She stated this budget includes only a half time employee.

Mr. Pineo replied that it is only a part time position in this budget, the staff does already do a lot of cross over work. He is aware that of what the business plan calls for, but they will not be ready to fill the position of a Rink Manager until 2024 when they will have a better handle on it.

Mrs. Murray stated that this is going to be an Arts Center when the ice is out, they need to be able to have baseball, lacrosse and other activities in there to make the anticipated revenue. The Friends of Pop Whalen have been raising funds on this business plan including asking the schools support on the locker rooms.

Mr. Pineo replied they have had gowning challenges, now that they can get the maintenance department going in the right direction it will allow them to focus on the plan going forward.

Mrs. Murray stated the facility needs the revenues proposed in order not affect the tax rate for the facility, she is concerned it will be undercut.

Mr. Pineo replied they need to have some actual costs from the building to get a handle on what the cost will be.

Capital Outlay

Beaches-sand improvement \$60,000

Ms. Collins noted there are some issues at Albee Beach with sand erosion and Lake Wentworth will be in a draw down which is a great time to address this problem.

Mrs. Murray wondered if they could work to stop the erosion around the trees.

Mr. Freudenberg noted it would be nice to do this but wondered if they could just do Albee at this time.

Mr. Deshaies suggested looking into getting public donations.

Mrs. Murray suggested checking for grants since it is for water quality and to check with Julie Brown.

John Deer Tractor \$46,671

Mr. Pineo stated that he'd like to look into a multipurpose tractor to be shared.

Baseball Field improvement \$60,000

Ms. Collins stated that the fields need upgrades it has been some time and they are still actively seeking quotes. She noted that she is looking to see if Cal Ripken is willing to help as well.

Mrs. Murray suggested revisiting this one for possible phasing and or donations.

Cate Park Improvements \$ 40,000

Ms. Collins stated this is to work to get this park ADA compliant.

Brewster Beach septic \$10,000

Ms. Collins stated this will need to be revisited as it is still awaiting a cost estimate.

Being no other business before the Board, Chairman Senecal entertained a motion to adjourn at 7:33 PM.

It was moved by Dave Senecal and seconded by Luke Freudenberg to adjourn.
Members voted, all in favor, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia Capone Muccio