

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO
BUDGET COMMITTEE**

November 12, 2020
6:30 PM

Great Hall, Wolfeboro Town Hall and Virtual Access

I. Preamble and Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Good evening and welcome to the November 12, 2020 meeting of the Wolfeboro Budget Committee.

Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order #2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically. **However, the Committee has jointly decided to proceed with a 'hybrid' meeting format allowing for members of the public and Board to attend and participate in the meeting in-person or virtually.**

In accordance with RSA 91-A: 2, III, the Board has 3 members joining the meeting remotely, which a public body has the authorization to allow.

At this time I would like to take a roll-call vote of ALL members present. For those participating virtually, please indicate why your attendance is not reasonably practical and if you have any other individuals present in the room with you.

Members Present (In-person): John MacDonald, Chairman, Bob Loughman, Matthew Plache, Steve Johnson, Bob Moholland, John Burt, Members.

Members Present (Virtual): Bob Tougher, Vice-Chairman (indicated he is at his residence and no one is present), Linda Murray, Selectmen's Alternate Representative (indicated she is at his residence and no one is present), Tom Bell, Member (indicated he is at his residence and no one is present).

Votes taken during this meeting will be via roll call vote for ALL members.

In accordance with Emergency Order #12, for members of the public, this is to confirm that we are:

1. Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means through GoToMeeting. All members of the public and Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the GoToMeeting platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone #+1 (646) 749-3122 followed by the audio access code 918-242-429, or by video following the directions on the Town of Wolfeboro Website posted on the home page under the Virtual Town Meeting Login Information page.
2. Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting; we previously gave notice to the public of how to access the meeting in-person or using GoToMeeting and in, and instructions are provided on the Town of Wolfeboro website at wolfeboronh.us on the Virtual Town Meeting Login Information page.
3. Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access; If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or computer, please immediately call 603-486-2692 OR email hendrickson.leeann@gmail.com In the event that the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time.

Members Absent: Paul O'Brien, Selectmen's Representative, Brian Black, Member.

Staff Present (In-person): Jim Pineo, Acting Town Manager, Lee Ann Hendrickson, Administrative Secretary.

Staff Present (Virtual): Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director, Barry Muccio, Director of Operations, Municipal Electric Department.

II. 2021 Budget

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION AND GENERATION

Jim Pineo noted an increase in the Electric budget of \$168,472; noting such is related to the long term debt.

ADMINISTRATION

Referencing Rentals and Leases, Steve Johnson asked if consideration has been given to purchasing a copier rather than leasing the equipment.

Barry Muccio stated the department is included in the copier lease program for all Town departments.

Jim Pineo stated the lease expires in July 2021; noting the Town will explore the cost benefit to lease v. purchase.

DISTRIBUTION

Referencing Outside Services, Steve Johnson questioned the increase to such.

Barry Muccio stated the increase is related to tree trimming services; noting 2/3 of the Town's power outages are related to tree issues.

Steve Johnson asked if Mr. Muccio feels the funding request will decrease in the future.

Barry Muccio replied no.

Bob Loughman asked if the service is contracted out.

Barry Muccio replied yes.

Steve Johnson questioned the long term debt.

Jim Pineo stated he would provide the long term debt schedule and provided the following information;

2022	principal payment of \$490,000 (level)	interest payment of \$134,500 (decrease)
2023	principal payment of \$430,000 (decrease)	interest payment of \$113,000 (decrease)
2024	principal payment of \$156,000 (decrease)	interest payment of \$99,000 (decrease)

GENERATION

Referencing Consultants, Steve Johnson stated such has not been expended to date and questioned whether such could be decreased.

Barry Muccio requested the current amount continue to be carried.

Steve Johnson asked whether the unexpended funds from the budget are transferred to the General Fund.

Jim Pineo stated if funds are not expended they remain in the Electric Enterprise fund balance. He noted such is provided in audit reports; noting he could forward the audit to the Committee.

Bob Loughman asked if the unexpended funds could be used to reduce the electric rate.

Jim Pineo replied possibly.

Bob Tougher stated the electric fund has a surplus that pays for projects.

The Committee discussed the consultant line.

Barry Muccio stated he intends to perform an analysis of the building next year. He stated there have been miscellaneous expenses however, such have been reimbursed by the State because the site is an oil clean-up site.

CAPITAL OUTLAY

Meter Reader Pick-up Truck; \$37,500

Barry Muccio stated the vehicle would replace an existing 2011 truck that has over 100,000 miles.

III. Other Business

Purchase Power Contract

Barry Muccio stated the existing contract expires in 2021. He stated he went out to bid one year early and captured favorable pricing; noting the rates will decrease once the contract goes into effect. He noted the contract is for five years (ending in 2026).

Remote Meter Reading Opt-Out

John Burt questioned the number of customers that have opted out of the automated readings.

Barry Muccio replied 3.

John Burt asked if those customers are charged a surcharge for opting out.

Barry Muccio replied yes.

Pop Whalen Solar

Steve Johnson stated the Committee discussed the potential of solar at the Pop Whalen ice arena and asked Mr. Muccio his thoughts regarding such.

Barry Muccio recommended contracting a vendor to perform an analysis of such. He stated that being a municipality the Town would not receive tax credits for solar. He stated the building has a southern exposure which is not optimal for sun light.

John Burt asked if the Town has a committee that addresses solar.

Jim Pineo confirmed the Town has an Energy Committee.

Letter to Budget Committee

John MacDonald stated the Committee received a letter from Dwain Perillo, dated 11/9/20, providing a copy of The Watchtower.

IV. Public Comment

None.

It was moved by John Burt and seconded by Matt Plache to adjourn the November 12, 2020 Budget Committee meeting. Roll call vote: John MacDonald - yes, Bob Tougher – yes, Bob Loughman - yes, Steve Johnson – yes, Tom Bell - yes, Matt Plache - yes, Bob Moholland - yes, John Burt – yes, Linda Murray - yes. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Hendrickson

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