

**SELECTBOARD BUDGET MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020 at 4:00-5:45 PM- via zoom**

Those present: in person: Mike Hogan, Michelle Leclerc, Betty Ritter; via zoom: Fred Ducharme, Matt Nally, Ruth Ducharme, Chuck Talbert, Cameron North, Mary Saggerson, Karlyn Schmitt, Skip Bothfeld, David C., Frank Kampf, Gwen Hallsmith, James Wolynetz, Johanna Thibault, Karen Larsen, Karen Mueller-Harder, William Ameden, Theresa Lay-Sleeper, Rory Thibault, Dean Deasy, Lisa Olson, Jacqueline Lumbra, Mary Saggerson, Cameron North.

1. Call meeting to order. The meeting was called to order by Fred at 4:00 p.m.

2. Approve Agenda A motion was made by Mike with a second by Matt, motion carried.

3. Public Comment – Chuck Talbert wanted to know advocate for recreation budget. We will keep you abreast when we discuss.

4. Utility Partners – regarding contract – 4:30 p.m. – will be next week

5. Review Budget and Payroll – Mike I feel it is necessary to go through each one. Mike – Cabot Appropriations – from the last meeting – Cabot Senior Group called and said they did not want any appropriations this year. We went through line items as necessary if there were any changes. FD \$57,500 they asked for and we put it \$52,500. Health Insurance will be \$12,000, for the library – we put the library at level fund of \$80,000. They asked for \$86,426. Listers – they reduced their amount. Rec Committee – didn't the reduction have to go with the ice rink? Mary Saggerson said that is correct. Chuck – will we have the skating rink? We are not sure if it will be this year due to Covid and the need for volunteers to help install and the money for that can into next year's budget. Mary agreed that we do not want to create a problem. What is not used for this budget, we carryover. Leave it at \$8,000. Chuck – does that level fund programs. All agreed with this. We don't have an answer for the ice rink for this year yet. What they don't use for this budget, it will carry forward. We still need to cut expenses for 2021-22 in order to keep the tax rate the same.

6. Highway – we will hold off on the second container for next year. Matt felt we should go back to salt and sand amount if there is money left over with any other savings. The new highway budget is \$799,342. Library will put in an article for \$6,000 for the rest of their request.

Ruth discussed why has there been no response to the information requested regarding the calls the FD went out on. Skip is concerned needs to be more concrete and feels this is to feed the project that Ruth is working on. Ruth stated she is not working on any project we are simply looking for information. Mike the information will help us with presenting something – what is the future for the FD. Perhaps we need to have this group start meeting again. The SB has to answer to the people. It is preliminary information. All we are doing right now is just looking for some information. Dean Deasy – we are a little gun shy on all of the things that have happened on the last couple of years. Betty will write a formal letter asking for this information.

Next SB meeting we will finalize budget. There is no meeting next week. Mike recommended that the next Chronicle comes out in time for Town Meeting – article talks about the budget and the amounts prior to informational meeting. Also, series of dates and deadlines – articles that need to come in and a schedule for the dates.

Water and Wastewater – due to increases in work that Utility Partners are doing we will be \$2,500 expenses over what the income is going to be and may need to increase fees.

7. Other business – Karen Larsen suggested that the taxpayers have an opportunity to review the budget before it was finalized. We then had it published on our website and welcome feedback.

8. Mike – calendar – could use the meeting to look at the proposed budget. Printing deadlines – we are waiting for the printing deadlines for the Town Report. Karen stated all they are trying to do is to get a feel of what the SB is doing and they are not doing something secret. Put it on the website so everyone can see it. Rory concerned about not allocating everyone wanted.

9. Adjourn – A motion was made by Ruth with a second by Mike. We adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer