

SELECTBOARD BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020 at 4:00-5:45 PM-via zoom

Those attending: Mike Hogan, Michelle Leclerc, Betty Ritter; Zoom – Fred Ducharme, Matt Nally, Ruth Goodrich, Jefferson Tallman, Jim Brimcolombe, Karlyn Schmidt, Aldo Nunn, Beth Wade, Bobby Searles, Dana Glazier, Karen Larsen, William Amenden, Frank Kampf, Lori Augustinak, Theresa Lay-Sleeper, Peg Elmer.

1. Call meeting to order – the meeting was called to order by Fred Ducharme at 4:01.
2. Approve Agenda - Mike moved that we approve the agenda with a second by Matt Motion carried.
3. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
4. Utility Partners – regarding contract – 4:30 p.m. Jefferson Tallman – additional \$5,000, also looking for mileage, and an increase in hourly rate is \$30.00 and \$50.00 overtime. Mike – added cost will be for July, 2021 to June 30, 2022. This will be split between water and wastewater. Mike – wants to talk to them again. Would like to hear from Utility Partners – what kind of forward planning for the wastewater plant after Town Meeting. Want to open it to the public for comment. Theresa – is there any working group about the future of the wastewater plant. If we do not have one she would suggest that we have one. Mike – are you referring to a certain project? Theresa – wants to know how to sustain it and have Utility Partners be part of it.
5. Review and approve budget for 2021-2022 – Theresa thanked us for the opportunity to participate. Fire Department – they budgeted more than last year. Would like to see the budget. Mike – it is line 17 of the general budget. What will happen to the FD if we cut. \$57,500 was what they asked for. They offered to reduce their budget to \$52,500. Library fund – Kurt said it was level funded from last year along with what they ask for last year. It is level funded with last year's. They are now asking for the same amount this year. Kurt stated that they asked for an additional amount. Fred wants everyone want to understand. Mike stated that we gave the Town gave the employees a 2% increase, the Librarian will be getting 5% raise. Beth – we gave Kathleen a 5% raise because she is underpaid. She has no additional employees. Curbside deliveries, and interlibrary loans. We have been on a free ride for years, and this is no longer viable. That is the reason for an increase. Beth thinks it is very shortsighted and what is needed.

Aldo is on right now. Fred wanted to know what we did cut. We cut some paving – we were going to do Houston on next cycle and Cabot Plains, and we are hoping that Whittier Hill we may be able have Cabot Creamery digester. We feel that we have a pretty good budget for the highway. Peg Elmore what are we anticipating for the time we are in. Mike wants to know what concerns we have. CCA has not been cut, Cabot Chronicle – will still be getting their amounts. Recreation Dept. volunteered to cut their budget.

Highway – are we good with the number. We have everything we need. Mike approve the budget for 2021-22. With a second by Ruth. It was approved at \$794,342.

General Fund – will have to refigure – Mike want to pass it as is. Do we want to change the library budget to \$85,469. Beth thanked the SB.

Betty stated that Michelle and herself would forego and raise for the coming year in order to help with the Municipal portion of the budget.

Matt felt that Betty and Michelle should have the raise.

Mike moved that we should approve the general fund in the amount of \$674,200 with a second by Ruth. Motion carried.

Mike said that we need to look at Wastewater - changed it to \$179,310. They will go from \$235 to \$250 in order to cover this. We should be okay for the fees as it is now. Ruth moved that we accept the budget, second by Fred. Motion carried.

Water Fund – adding increases from Utility Partners increase to \$71,000. We will need to increase the fees from \$110 per quarter base fee, \$2.71 per 1,000 gallons after the first 10,000 gallons. There are 110 users. Base rate would be best to raise to \$130 per quarter. We want to defer to next meeting. We can do it on the SB meeting on January 5, 2021.

6. Other business – There was no other business.
7. Adjourn - Mike moved that we adjourn with a second by Matt, motion carried. We adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Betty Ritter, Clerk/Treasurer