

SELECTBOARD BUDGET MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

Those present: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Betty Ritter, Michelle Leclerc, Frank Kampf, via zoom: Matt Nally, Ian Ackermann, Karlyn Schmitt, Jenn Miner

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order by Mike Hogan at 5:01 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Matt, motion carried.
3. Continued budget discussions for 2022-2023 budget – we have progressed and would like to approve the budget on December 14, 2021. We looked at water and wastewater. We put in what the actual expenses from last year. We can put some money in a capital investment approximately \$13,000. Expense just under what comes in. WW – has an investment fund of \$405,000.00. End of fiscal year we always put into a MM account and we can draw from this. We may have to draw \$11,000. We have \$420,000 in the investment fund right now. We are using the ARPA money for repairs so we don't have to use the money for these repairs. There are 121 users for WW and 103 for Water.

Highway and General fund – what to do for payroll increase. Reasonable amount is 4% increase overall is about \$4,600 for town employees excluding the library. Some of the other areas we looked at we looked at the Willey Building to fix the buildings up, windows, air, we can allocate as much as we want. Rec Committee was asking for \$19,700. Leave the amount \$8,000, difference in ARPA for \$11,700. Library – they said as long as the Library can sustain \$25,000 to sustain down the road. They stated they could reduce some library. \$7,200 for children librarian. Ten hours was not enough – they would like to have 15 hours which is \$15,600 – need to find out from the library would like to have an additional \$8,000. Kathleen will check into this to be sure. Listers was looking for 369 extra hours. Perhaps we could do half approximately 189 hours. Matt wanted to make sure they have enough time to efficiently do their job. We do not have a standard to go from. Mike will talk with the listers.

Payroll – we originally 2.5% increase, suggest a 4% increase. Discussed a raise 5% raise – it would go up \$1.27, 7.2% \$1.52. Ian's thoughts were \$1.50. Fred agreed with the \$1.50 raise, then go back to cost of living later. Everyone seems to agree with a flat rate. A year would be \$31,000/year. Matt wants to make sure that we consider to make sure we are covered. Matt wanted to suggest a 5% raise and then a bonus because of this past year. We should plug in a 5% increase and see the overall increase to the Town. Betty stated that the municipalities do not go by the cost of living but the consumer price index which keeps us current with inflation. Listers 1,744 hours, wanted 1,929. There is also a possibility that ARPA can give those that worked in the past year, a bonus for working day in and day out during covid. Listers have a line item of \$1,000 for computers. The last one they bought one in 2018. Mike will discuss this with Jeanne. Why does the library get 5.9% and the town employees get 5%. Chronicle will get \$15,000. Emergency Management - \$500 and whatever they need for supplies. FD Dean is working on the grant. Leave FD \$60,000. Ian wanted to check about a grant writer.

Highway – Ian will be talking to Aldo tomorrow and report back.

Next budget meeting will be on December 13.

The tax .6712 (an increase of \$.04).

4. Public Comment – there was no public comment.
5. Other Business – there was no other business.
6. Adjourn – a motion was made by Fred with a second by Matt, motion carried. We adjourned at 6:18.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter Town Clerk/Treasurer