

SELECT BOARD BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, Betty Ritter, Michelle Leclerc, Frank Kampf, via zoom: Beth Wade, Matt Nally, Gwen Hallsmith, Kurt Steinert, Kathleen Hoyne, Chief Don Stevens of Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe, Gary Gulka, Jeanne Johnson

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Matt. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment –
 - a. Frank – wanted to know how many miles do we plow. We will check into this.
 - b. Gwen – re her article warning she thanked all who signed. Chief Don Stevens also attended via zoom and wanted to thank everyone for their support.
4. Review and approve Budget for 2022-2023:
 - a. Gary Conservation and Trails Committee requested an increase for \$1,250, as there may some expenses this year as the Committee may have to plow. We have 15 landowner’s permission for the trails.
 - b. Mike – reviewed the process and we started this in October with budget meetings open to the public. We have made some small increments to the budget including dispatching which will be around \$12,000. The Highway is \$823,725 was an increase of \$5,000. We don’t foresee any big projects, some road work, aprons, projecting about \$.02 increase on the budget. Requirements for the roads and other areas continued light of this past year. A lot of people involved, Town Clerk’s office, Select Board, along with each committee came and presented their requirements for the coming year. The Budget is based on what we know what we will spend over the next year. We received \$428,000 ARPA money – supporting an additional needs for wastewater upgrades, water, digitizing land records, Willey Building has need of a new ventilation system, heat pumps, new windows in the building, better lighting. We realize that a couple of years ago the special appropriations were a point of contention, this year we have funded them as requested 100%. The Board has been working remotely for the last couple of years and will continue with this. However, we encourage people to come to the meetings in person. The Articles on the warning will be discussed at our next meeting on January 18.
 - c. Mike motioned to increase the Trails budget to \$1,250 with a second by Fred, motion carried. This will increase the budget from \$692,690 to \$693,815. The Warning must be posted by the 30th of this month. Mike motioned that we approve the general budget of \$693,815 with a second by Fred. There was no discussion, motion carried. Mike then made a motion to approve highway fund 823,725 with a second by Fred. Matt discussed class 4 roads – what was the outcome? Mike stated that the board wanted to have an inventory of Class IV Roads and the condition and prioritize. Ian agreed to work with Irv Robbins on this. We will be doing an assessment and then put moneys where we need to. After this discussion, motion carried.
 - d. Mike wanted to talked about the capital 10-year plan, where we were going to spend money and plug in some 2023-24, Old Route 2, Common Road in April which will be around \$180,000 – spend some more time paving the roads. After Town Meeting, when we have new members on the board, we can look at that.

He also wants to thank all the people that have come forward for the budget process. Beth Wade thanked the Board for the ARPA funding, along with several other people.

5. Motion to adjourn – A motion was made by Fred with a second by Matt, motion carried and we adjourned at 5:27 p.m. The regular SB meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer