

**SELECTBOARD BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023, 5:00 P.M.**

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by Mike Hogan at 5:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda – A motion was made by Mike with a motion by Fred and a second by RD. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
4. Preliminary discussion on 2024-2025 Budget – Mike discussed the budget. We have a base budget for municipality. We work with each group in Town. Determines what the budget is and how to pay for it. This is a bit different for what we went through this year. This coming budget year starts on July 1, 2024. Inflation has caused some problems over the past two years and still will be. We need to look at the FD and the temporary and permanent buildings, what about items not covered by FEMA and look at various grant and the schedule of the repayments of the loan. \$1.3 million so far. \$130,000 left if FEMA pays 90%. Need to look at the future. We can bond this out for a couple of years. Projects that will carryover especially flood mitigation. We still have a large invoice from J. P. Sicard that we did that was substantial. Looking at Highway and Garage. Municipal Tax Rate Sheet – depending on grand list and other expenses.

Highway – What does Sid see in the coming year. Equipment repairs -increase to \$30,000. Loader will be going to be repaired which will cost around \$4,000. He found some problems with some of the lines. Buzzi Garage is what we usually use as they deal with trucks. Gravel - \$80,000, Kingdom Gravel going up \$.25/yard and Bickford will also raise their prices. RD wanted to know what effect it had on the gravel. We didn't have much as we used it through mud season. Sand we should have it hauled in. It was done in two days. Saves on wear and tear of our trucks. We have about 10,000 now. Garage supplies would like to bump to \$6,000. Hired equipment – we are behind on ditching and will never get caught up. If we hire Ben Ackermann and Jermey Greaves – we could get this caught up eventually. Ben Ackermann would be around \$10,000. He will need to have someone to do the blacktop. Tyler Mayo is willing to do plowing for us and will get us through until Spring. If we can subcontract out can Aldo and Sid can handle it, yes, but it would be difficult. If we were back to 3, we would be fine. Additionally, 2-parttime would help. Salary for highway – 2 salaries, and 2 parttime – what are we going to pay them. The roads are in better shape that they have been due to having to clean up because of the flood. We need to have some aprons that need to be done. Tetreault Road needs to have an apron. Whittier could be in the spring. Old Route 2 – have 2 more years on Route 2. Working with Hutchins to see if they can use a place to stockpile and then we clean them out and trade. Old Route 2 needs to have something done to it as nothing was done for many, many years.

Karen wanted to know about the new salt system. He will work with East Montpelier to have a mix for him to try. Mixed reviews as it sticks to the road and to vehicles.

What are needs for the next fiscal year – Replace Aldo's truck it is 8 years old. We are looking at \$270,000 for a new truck. The holdup is Viking as they have the state contract. Town pick up will be coming. Roller – we are hoping this is going to happen.

RD wanted to know if we could fill in a spot with stay-mat by the Church. Sid could see no reason why we couldn't do it, but no driveway.

Karen – what about a sinking fund. Mike stated that we have one. Another name could be equipment fund (Line 34). We will use the fund balance in consideration of a new budget. Should we consider more to go in this? Highway is a big portion.

5. Other Business - There was no other business.
6. Motion to Adjourn - a motion was made by Fred with a second by RD, we adjourned at 5:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer