

**BUDGET MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024, 5:00 P.M.**

Those attending in person: Mike Hogan, Fred Ducharme, R. D. Eno, Skip Bothfeld, Michelle Leclerc, Betty Ritter; those attending via Zoom: Karen Larsen

1. Call Meeting to Order – the meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda - A motion was made by Fred with a second by Skip. Motion carried.
3. Review of 2024-25 Budget and possibly Approve Budget couple of things that we need to decide on \$825,218 GF, various discussions on ambulance, if we should go out with a RFP. It is a good faith accountability and doesn't work at this time. Whatever we do in the future we should have a contract. Should we go ahead with a RFP. We will put it in the general fund separate line item for transport service to the Town. Karen – putting out to RFP a sensible sense and they are in favor of the fast track. She has looked into several RFP. Mike – 7<sup>th</sup> month of fiscal year. If we put any RFP and do it right could be done by June 30 and if not how to figure it out how to carry over. The flood has brought to light that we need a contract. Why Cabot Ambulance with an increased appropriation request from the \$40,000 to \$47,000. It was due to an increase in operating expenses. Fred believes this should go to the voters about retaining Cabot Ambulance for Cabot. There are certain legal elements that an article. Fred still believes we can answer the voters and ask for input. People are upset about how this is being handled. They feel that the ambulance is a fast squad. If we have two articles it may be confusing. It might control how to award a contract because there will be an article. RD – we run into controversy. Put the article out and we will have an article. EMS separate line item and take out of appropriations. RD move that we create separate line for EM Transport Services and take \$47 out of the appropriations line, with a second by Skip. Motion carried.
4. Mike – went to the school meeting – it is going to be a big burden for the taxpayers. There is a significant increase for the school portion of the budget. He proposed to take the monies from Masonic Hall to income and reduce the tax rate. RD - We must reserve the money from the sale of Masonic Hall. We are trying to reduce the tax rate. We will be setting the tax rate in the middle of July, so we still have time to set the tax rate with possibly more income coming into the GF. What do we do with the fund balance. Function of carryover of each year. A motion was made to that we reserve the perspective sale amount of Masonic Sale to apply to the 24-25 tax rate by RD with a second by Fred. Payroll for highway fund. We now have 3 people in the highway fund. We should have four separate motions:
  - a. A motion was made that we adopt the highway portion of grand list by RD with a second by Fred. Motion carried.
  - b. A motion was made to accept the grand list by RD with a second by Fred. Motion carried.
  - c. A motion was made to accept the Water budge by RD with a second by Fred. Motion carried.
  - d. A motion was made by RD with a second by Skip to accept the budget for Wastewater. Motion carried.

Any other questions – we are waiting for money from FEMA and the State has received money to reimburse –111 million to reimburse the share of expenses that FEMA doesn't cover. Swift current fundings – buyouts and mitigation – some discussion monies available from the bond bank to offset the interest. It will be new money not old debts. RD that we need to find out if a have we a have risk survey on file for subgrant on files.

5. Adjourn – A motion was made by Fred with a second by RD to adjourn. Motion carried. We adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer