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Selectboard:
Jan Gaudio
Walter Reitz
John Spear

Minutes
Board of Selectmen
Budget Committee

Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 **Time:** 6:00 pm **Place:** Remote Only, Zoom **REV:**0

Selectboard Present: Jan Gaudio, John Spear, Walter Reitz
Budget Committee Present: Moira Paddock, Jeff Northgraves, Bob Baines, Linda Maltais, Kate Greene, Sondra Wallace, Beverly St. Clair, and Camille Minikis
Others Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Pennie Alley and John Koffel

I. Call to Order

*Reitz called the Selectboard meeting to order at 6:01.
He asked people to mute themselves if not talking and raise their hand if they would like to speak.*

II. Adjustments to Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

*Paddock thanked T.Baines for a job well done preparing books and agendas.
Reitz mentioned Bob Baines and Linda Maltais are new members, Kate Greene and Sondra Wallace are sophomores. New members introduced themselves.*

IV. Elect Budget Committee Chair

The Budget Committee elected Moira Paddock as Budget Committee Chair.

V. Elect Budget Committee Secretary

The Budget Committee elected Kate Greene as budget committee secretary.

VI. 2021-2022 Budget Review

Reitz pointed out several changes for this budget cycle. The Town is transitioning to a fiscal year plus holding the budget meetings via zoom, some things have fallen through the cracks with the change in administrators. A 6-month budget from Jan 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021 then a 12-month budget July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. There is no levy limit set yet. We have an advisory from MMA concerning the fiscal year transition. We can bring to town meeting a fixed limit or do an increase. Northgraves said it may require us to have an article to approve the increase. We will exceed the LD1 levy limit,

make it a onetime deal for these special circumstances. There was a discussion on establishing a levy limit. There will be only one commitment for two tax payments. The budgets have not yet accounted for some maintenance that needs to be done around the building, but we also need to engage Ambulance Director Amy Drinkwater and Chief Calderwood on that tomorrow. We have a forecasted number from RSU #13, the transfer station budget is flat. Surplus is \$627,461.

a. CEO/LPI 560

Added to this budget is mileage \$250 for six months and \$500 for 12 months. Code books, \$300. We will be discussing adding a cell phone. Also add 1% to wages for six months and 12 months. This will affect fica and med. New copies will be sent out tomorrow.

Budget committee discussion.

Selectboard: Spear asked if we have made a decision concerning a cell phone. The Town does pay for the Fire Chief's cell phone. Gaudio thought this would be an equipment line.

Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to preliminarily approval of 560 CEO/LPI in the amount of \$37904.

Motion passed 3-0.

b. Planning Board 530

Erv Curtis, Chair of the Planning Board sent in a request today for \$1700 for the Planning Board budget. Reitz felt that this was to pay for the note taker for Planning Board meetings. Reitz recommends \$560 in six months and \$1140. in the 12-month budget.

Budget committee discussion

Selectboard: Reitz think the mailing line might be underbudgeted. Spear thought it was hard to tell, but likely could be. If the solar farm mailing happens that cost would be under the Planning Board budget. An ordinance mailing would come under the administration budget.

Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to preliminarily approve 530. Planning Board budget in the amount of \$2,470.00.

There was a discussion of the notetaker pay.

Motion passed 3-0

c. Assessors 520

Reitz gave a brief explanation of this budget. Explanation on software and tax maps and assessors' wages.

Budget committee discussion

Discussion on wages, assessor pay and benefits with the Selectboard.

Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to preliminarily approve 520 Assessors in the amount of \$ 72894.

Motion approved 3-0.

Reval Reserve

Balance as of December 31, 2021 is \$40,406.

Reitz asked what the trigger is for a reval? Northgraves said it depends on the comparison of what the state says compared to what the Town says. We have been able to avoid it because the previous assessor periodically did reevaluations. We should now. We are getting askew. It could cause us not to get the full rate for homestead and veterans. Spear said another trigger is quality ratio. It does not feel like we are there yet but getting closer. Especially how hot the real estate market is right now.

The Reval Reserve was not funded last year. B. Baines asked what a whole valuation would cost? Paddock thought about a \$100,000. Gaudio, Northgraves and Spear all felt \$10,000 would be a good place holder at this point and time. There was a discussion on the assessor's agents reassessing houses.

Budget committee discussion

Reitz explained the reserves serve several different purposes. You fund some, then draw down to 0. Others are designed to be used more frequently, for example the paving reserve. The Town paves in one year and saves in the next. Not all reserves are the same, they all have their purpose.

Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to preliminarily fund line 1200 Reval Reserve fund with \$10,000.

Motion passed 3-0

d. Building & Grounds 540

Reitz believes maintenance needs to be increase, but we do not have a number yet. Should have one after tomorrow night's meeting. Other than that, he has no issue with the balance of this budget.

Budget committee discussion.

Questions asked of the Selectboard. Paddock asked about the expenses for Gilford Butler School. She also wanted to know if articles were going to be on the warrant at town meeting concerning Gilford Butler School. Reitz explained we have not gone after those articles yet, but we will. B. Baines asked about line 267, Reitz explained \$8,000 was a run rate number, but we know there are maintenance issues that need to be taken care of. These maintenance issues were not passed on to the new administrator. The Board needs to identify priorities and estimate out. Paddock had questions about lights in the ambulance bay. Gaudio asked

about boiler maintenance and Gilford Butler school. Spear questioned unanticipated and maintenance. Gaudio said the difference is between planned maintenance vs unplanned maintenance. Reitz would like to know the life expectancy of the Gilford Butler boiler. There was a discussion concerning the boiler at Gilford Butler. Should we look at costs to replace or wait to see what the outcome of the town meeting is.

Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to preliminarily approve 540 Buildings and Grounds in the amount of \$79,488.

Motion passed 3-0

e. Streetlights 600

Reitz gave a brief explanation about the buyout of our lights and replacing them with LED lights. We borrowed \$38,000 to fund the purchase of the streetlights. Northgraves feels it looks good in 2019 but maybe costing us more going forward. Spear said yes, but debt service will drop off.

There was a brief discussion about whether there should be a maintenance line. How long are the lights under warranty? If someone should take a pot shot at the lights or an automobile accident damaged onset. Our insurance and warranty won't cover replacement. It was decided to let this line go for a year and see what happens. Reitz suggested talking with Thomaston. They had budgeted maintenance cost.

Budget Committee Discussion

Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to preliminarily approve line 837 Street lights at \$ 4248.

f. Capital 702

Computer/networking. Paddock asked when the Town got new computers. Gaudio said 2019. Paddock asked if the board is anticipating other capital items. Reitz said maybe, still in the discussion state.

Budget committee discussion

Selectboard and Budget Committee discussed the capital account and what should be in it.

Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to preliminary approve department 702 Capital expense in the amount of \$8,232.

Motion passed 3-0

VII. Adjournment

Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:07

Motion passed 3-0

Selectboard Approved 3-30-2021