

Fryeburg Budget Committee Minutes
March 27, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
David & Doris Hastings Community Center

Budget Committee Members Present: Ed Price, Patrick Emery, Chiye Harper, Stephen Chase

Town Staff Present: Katie Haley, Ruth Antonucci, Lester France, Aaron Mick

Select Board Present: Tom Kingsbury, Tom Klinepeter, Jim Tyrrell

Price called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Chase made a motion to approve the March 20, 2023 meeting minutes, which was seconded by Harper and passed unanimously.

The Committee was provided additional information from Fryeburg Rescue/Stephen Goldsmith to serve as follow-up items from the previous meeting. After some discussion, Price asked the Board if they would be prepared to vote on the final budget recommendation next week, based on the information presented. Chase indicated that he would support the same budget as last year but would like to see more detail before supporting an increase as presented. Klinepeter offered clarification and apology for comments that he made about a personal situation and payments to Fryeburg Rescue. The committee commented about wanting to see exact amounts expended last year, wants to know how the approximately \$5,000 overage last year was covered, wants for details about insurance write-offs, amongst some other details. It was requested that Haley invite Fryeburg Rescue to come to the next meeting and additional details would be reviewed as a separate agenda item.

Haley presented the Transfer Station budget. There was a discussion about the need to complete some paving work; this led to a conversation about the culvert at the driveway entrance and the bump that it creates. France reported that this is the State's responsibility and that they are aware of the issue, although it is unknown when they might fix it. Price asked about the lack of proposed increases in heat and electricity; Haley explained that a cautious approach was taken last year given the unknowns in price increases, and that it seems to be covering the costs. She noted that utility payments and usage is tracked on a monthly basis. Tyrrell asked about the barrel pick-up. Haley noted that Wallace Allen does that and that he provided the yearly price to France. There was discussion about overages last year and about the payment schedule.

Haley and France presented the Highway Department budget. She explained that the union has separate insurance than the non-union town employees. She noted a proposal for a part-time temporary summer position that would be used primarily for mowing. France explained that this would give the Public Works Dept more time to focus on road projects. Haley also noted that the crew takes their vacations in the summer and this position would help cover time-off for the full-time employees. There was discussion about clothing and uniforms. The capital request to purchase a plow truck was discussed, noting that \$100,000 had already been set aside to purchase that and that the truck would be ready to plow next winter.

Haley and Mick presented the Police Department budget. Mick spent some time reviewing the new budget line dedicated to ammo, firearms training and equipment. He noted a desire and need to spend additional time shooting in varying situations (nighttime, moving targets, etc.). \$8,000 of the \$10,000 budget line is solely for ammunition. Mick explained the current situation with cruisers; after 2 years of budgeting for cruisers he was finally able to procure 2 2022 trucks/cruisers. One of the existing cruisers will be sold, while the other will be retained and used when cruisers are in the shop or will be used when officers have to drive to training or court. Mick also explained some details about the change in police CAD software.

Price noted that patrol officer 6 did not take insurance. He asked if we provide other benefit or compensation in light of that; Haley responded that it has not been the practice to do so. Price asked about criminal justice academy tuition and this led to a discussion on carry forwards from last year. Mick noted that there is not clarity on whether academy will cost \$3,000 or \$10,000 moving forward; we were billed \$3000 for the current academy attendee.

Haley presented the Capital budget. There were questions about the timing of the Pine Street reconstruction.

Price asked the Committee if there were any lingering items to discuss before the final votes next week. Haley noted that there had been some discussion about increasing the budget allocation for the Saco River Corridor Commission. This was discussed and debated. Price made a motion to change the budget allocation for SRCC to \$2,356, which was seconded by Chase. Price noted that the commission is doing good work and their water testing costs should be covered. Tyrrell pointed out that other towns are not likely kicking in additional funds and that receiving extra funds from Fryeburg might impact grants which they get. After some continued discussion, Price withdrew his motion.

Chase made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Harper and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:10.