

Fryeburg Budget Committee Minutes
March 8, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
David & Doris Hastings Community Center

Budget Committee Members Present: Patrick Emery, Jim Tyrell, Ed Price, Chiye Harper

Select Board Members Present: Tom Klinepeter, Tom Kingsbury, Richard Murray

Emery called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Price noted an error in the minutes and made a motion to approve March 1, 2021 meeting minutes as corrected, which was seconded by Tyrell and passed unanimously.

Haley reviewed follow-up items from last meeting; the Select Board wages line was revised as voted upon and the social service agencies food pantry and miscellaneous social service agencies lines were adjusted to accurately reflect the food pantry requests received.

Steve Goldsmith presented the Fryeburg Rescue budget request. He noted that there are 13 lines/items that the budget request is based on and that payroll is paid for by the billing revenue rather than through the towns budgeted amounts. Harper asked for details on the aging report and asked for further details about billing and collections. Goldsmith relayed that their billing agency sends 3 bills and then it goes to collections. He uses a billing company that is used by many ambulance services.

Goldsmith commented that there was a decrease in calls and run volume which he noted directly impacts the revenue. Revenue was down by \$60,000. He was able to get PP loans and Cares Act funding which helped cover payroll and assisted in obtaining the increased PPE required due to Covid.

Goldsmith also conveyed that there may be an increase in next year's budget to assist in payroll; he noted that attracting and retaining employees is becoming more difficult and the minimum wage and earned paid leave are all having an impact on his overall budget. This led to further discussion about billing and collections. Harper commented that there may be alternative ways to improve billing without needing to go to collections; Goldsmith is open to ideas. There was also discussion about the second round of PP loans which Goldsmith does not believe he qualifies for because he cannot show enough revenue loss.

Klinepeter asked about the run volume during fair; Goldsmith said they usually do 25-50 runs during the Fryeburg Fair. Goldsmith closed his presentation by commenting that the Fryeburg Rescue budget request is relatively small and asked for continued support.

Jeremy Kiley presented the Saco Valley Fire Department budget request. Haley provided call stats that Kiley just gave her; SVFD responded to 40 calls in Fryeburg, and 23 in each Chatham and Stow. Price asked what they have for trucks. Kiley responded that they have 3 pumpers and 1 tanker between their 2 stations. One was upgraded last year. It was confirmed that their truck

fund is generally used to purchase trucks although it may be used for large expenses such as replacing a pump.

Harper asked why the office supply line was doubling. Kiley responded that they had to hire a bookkeeper.

Murray asked if Kiley thought the fuel budget request was adequate. Kiley believes so. Price asked if the Town had ever looked into getting its own fueling station. Haley has not looked into it but is not sure if previous managers/boards had. It was noted that Wex cards are used when filling up at Irving and that reduces the price. Klinepeter talked about the history of purchasing fuel through MDOT.

Library Director Jenifer Spofford presented the library budget request. She noted that she has received \$42,000 in grants in the past 2 years and that generous donations have helped her keep her book budget flat. The new library software put into service last year is working great and allows people to view the book catalogue online. Haley briefly went over the changes in the library budget.

Cleaning at the library was discussed. Tyrell asked about internet and Spofford noted that the library gets free internet via Spectrum. Harper asked how many books are purchased. Spofford spends about \$700-\$900 per month on books and gets about 600-800 new books per year.

Haley provided an overview of the Debt Service budget. The only debt service item is the Police Department lease. It was noted that the final payments on 2 public works department pieces of equipment were made this year. Price asked if new equipment now needs to be purchased. Haley said that Public Works needs a new plow truck but that it will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Price made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Tyrell and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.