

Fryeburg Budget Committee Minutes
March 28, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
David & Doris Hastings Community Center

Budget Committee members present: Patrick Emery, Jim Tyrrell, Chiye Harper

Select Board members present: Tom Kingsbury, Tom Klinepeter

Staff present: Katie Haley, Ruth Antonucci, Lester France, Aaron Mick, Henry Small

Emery called the meeting to order.

Tyrrell made a motion to approve the March 14, 2022 meeting minutes, which was seconded by Harper and passed unanimously.

Haley and France presented the Highway budget. Notable changes include decreasing the sand/salt budget (from \$83,000 to \$70,000) based on trends of usage while still being cautious in the estimate, adding a maintenance line for mowers, and increasing the parking/crosswalk striping from \$7,500 to \$21,700 based on estimates received. The striping was discussed and Harper recommended contacting a specific company that she has used. Klinepeter asked about the balance of the sidewalk account after the Main St. replacement from Dana to Elm; Haley will check that number and input it into the budget spreadsheet. Tyrrell asked about catch basin maintenance; France confirmed that some basins were cleaned last year and some need replacing this year.

France presented the request for \$100,000 for a truck/equipment reserve and reviewed the issues with the aging fleet, specifically noting that a new plow truck and loader are needed soon. Harper noted that the Public Works Director's pick-up has 200,000 miles. France stated that he would rather have a respectable, working fleet of equipment, rather than worry about his truck.

Tyrrell asked about the equipment rental line, which historically comes in under budget. France has ditching work this year and will plan to rent an excavator to speed the process up.

The need for a plow truck was further discussed. France provided information about the pricing of a new truck versus a used truck and noted the lengthy time frame to get a new truck and plow equipment. He also mentioned leasing as a possibility. Tyrrell noted that the Highway Dept has historically been under-budget and therefore money designated for that department has gone into credit reserve and as such, he suggested that the Select Board consider using credit reserve funds to aid in the purchase of a new plow truck this year.

Haley and France presented the Transfer Station budget. Notable increases are related to the new pricing for waste hauling and disposal. France presented the need for a new roll-off truck at the Transfer Station, highlighting that the current truck is in poor shape, and is requesting \$40,000 in capital to purchase roll-off. He has been shopping for trucks recently. There is only a need for a yard-safe truck but most roll-offs available are road worthy and therefore more expensive. Tyrrell inquired as to why this wasn't discussed at the last Select Board meeting as a use of credit reserve. Haley noted that the plan was to ask for this equipment to be budgeted for and that, given the safety concerns, France has been looking for a truck with the idea that credit

reserve and contingency funds could potentially be used to immediately purchase a truck. Harper asked why Transfer Station funds could not be rolled over each year into a capital account to be used for such purchases. This was discussed.

Chief Mick presented the Police Department budget. Haley noted mid-year raises for police officers, along with the standard 6% raise for next year. Notable changes beyond wages include slight increases for training, uniforms, vehicle maintenance and police software. Tyrrell asked about boat maintenance. Chief responded that the boats were not used in the past 2 years but there are plans to use them this year and this will require maintenance.

Chief discussed the issue of trying to acquire cruisers. He was finally able to get one ordered under the current budget and is again budgeting to purchase one this coming year to keep on the replacement schedule. The expectation is that the price will increase about 15%.

Chief noted that Fryeburg is the lowest paid police department in the county. Harper asked about the disparity; Mexico is paying reserve officers \$25/hour and starting pay of \$28/hour with take-home cruisers.

Haley presented the Capital budget which includes recreation request and fire truck fund request (discussed at previous meetings), and the aforementioned truck/equipment requests (from this meeting). She also reviewed the request for \$20,000 to be used for coming up with the plan to remedy issues at the library; notably the windows and roof need to be replaced and there needs to be a professional overview of the building and its deficiencies and subsequent needs.

Miscellaneous follow-up items: Haley noted that the porta-potty line under Parks increased due to a new owner of the porta-potty company raising prices. She also noted a decrease in the Fire Chief vehicle line due to a computer donation. She provided a brief overview of an effort to update the phone system at the town office but believes that the pricing will be similar to the current budget and therefore there are no changes are needed to the budget.

Questions – Comments: Tyrrell asked if people have applied for the Senior Property Tax Assistance program; Haley replied that applications are not due until June. The application process was discussed.

Tyrrell made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Harper and passed unanimously.