

**Fryeburg Budget Committee Minutes**  
**March 1, 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, Kimberly Clarke

Emery called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Price made a motion to approve the February 22, 2021 meeting minutes, which was seconded by Tyrell and passed unanimously.

Haley provided a review of follow-up items from last meeting including the overall budget spreadsheet, which she noted would be continuously updated for the committee, and additional information about the fire hydrant costs for the coming year. She confirmed there are 80 hydrants in Fryeburg.

Gene Bergoffen provided an airport budget presentation. He noted that the airport executive board is investigating alternate ways to operate as the board members are considering retiring and there is no new interest in serving on a volunteer board to operate an airport. Options include turning management back to the Town and Bergoffen noted that the Budget Committee should be thinking of the airport like a town department for budgeting sake. There was discussion about how the airport is funded (FAA, town contributions, hangar leases and fuel sales). Price asked about plans to lengthen the runway. Don Thibodeau and Bergoffen responded with an overview of the process of needing FAA to be in favor of the project; the airport is doing the background work to make this happen and the hope would be that the FAA would pay 100% of the runway expansion project with discretionary funding. Price wondered if the Town should plan for this as a capital expense; Thibodeau suggested that it might be premature.

Clarke asked why Conway did not provide funding last year. Bergoffen noted that it was due to the pandemic and last minute budget changes. Sherri Billings spoke her opinion and asked why we would want to give the airport money for town owned land and referred to Round Pond. Bergoffen and Thibodeau responded that the town set aside this land for airport purposes and noted FAA obligations to keep this property for airport purposes. Tyrell asked for some clarification on the ownership/lease of the airport land and confirmed that the airport board is volunteers and they are not paid.

Sherri Billings provided the Conservation Committee budget presentation. The committee is asking for \$5000 to aid with bridge construction at the Town Forest trail. There was discussion about the bridge materials and the life expectancy of the bridge. Price inquired what last years budgeted amounts were spent on; Billings responded that it was for trail construction oversight, materials, and a kiosk. Grant funds were also used for this. It was confirmed that the committee did not receive funding from the Mulford fund but they plan to apply again and for a couple of other grants. Harper suggested asking Lowes/Home Depot/Hancock Lumber for donations.

Haley provided the Broadband Committee budget presentation. She outlined what the committee has been doing related to surveying residents and encouraging speed tests so that the committee can identify gaps in service. The committee is requesting \$5000 which may be used for grant match. She noted the plans to apply for a Connect Maine grant to bring internet to 41 residents in Kimball Lake Shores.

Haley provided a budget review of the Boards and Committees. She noted that there are 3 new committees that were formed and proposed budgeting \$1000 for seed money to get the committees going.

Price inquired about the Select Board stipend and when was the last time that was looked at. Tyrell commented about supporting an increase in the stipend. Harper noted that it may draw more interest to serving on the Select Board. The Select Board members present noted the amount of time it takes to be on the Select Board and that they don't do it for the money. There was continued discussion. Price suggested increasing the Select Board line \$500/year for the next 5 years, giving each board member a \$100 dollar/year raise until their stipend is \$3,000. Tyrell made this a motion, which was seconded by Price and passed unanimously.

Harper asked about the group that is working on a "branding" project for the Town. Haley confirmed that it is not a formal committee but that the group may be able to partner with one of the existing committees to get projects completed.

Haley provided a budget review of the Miscellaneous lines. There were discussions about the food pantries and the social service agencies. It was confirmed that the budget committee usually sets an amount to be distributed to the agencies and the Select Board makes the final decision of how to distribute the funds.

Haley is asking for the Budget Committee and Select Board to generally support a 3% COLA raise for most employees. There was a brief discussion about union negotiations.

Haley provided a review of workers comp rates which decreased significantly this year and which will continue to decrease next year assuming there are no workplace injuries.

Price made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Tyrell and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.