

Fryeburg Budget Committee Minutes
March 22, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
David & Doris Hastings Community Center

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

Select Board Members Present: Tom Klinepeter, Tom Kingsbury, Kimberly Clarke

Emery called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Price made a motion to approve the March 15, 2021 meeting minutes, which was seconded by Tyrrell and passed unanimously.

The Public Works Department Highway budget was presented by Haley. She noted that Public Works Director Lester France was present to answer specific questions. Price asked for clarification on the part time highway worker and his employment classification; it was confirmed that the employee is considered a temporary employee but will get earned paid leave. Price also inquired about the budget line related to drug testing. Haley explained that it is completely random and often times there are no quarterly selections and sometimes there are more than 1 but she believes the budget line is ok.

There was discussion about the uniform contract and the boot allowance and the heating system for the town garage. Tyrrell asked about the overtime line, which has been overbudget in recent years. Haley believes that we will be under budget this year. There was brief discussion about some of the equipment budget lines.

Harper inquired about what sidewalks are maintained because many seem not well maintained. Haley noted that the \$10,000 budgeted each year will not get a lot of sidewalk repair or rebuild done but that we are building up money and that the Select Board will consider sidewalks when they do their capital improvement plan. There was discussion about specific sidewalks including Elm St.

There was a discussion about where we are trucking snow in the winter and why we are plowing Westons Beach parking. Snow gets hauled to the town garage and the beach parking area is plowed for snowmobiler/trailer parking.

There was discussion about the proposal to purchase a used plow truck under the capital budget with \$50,000. France explained the goal to purchase a 2016-2017 used plow truck which will be all set to plow and to trade in the 2009 International. A new truck is about \$180,000 new.

There was discussion about the \$10,000 proposal to purchase a truck to replace the 1983 maintenance truck. The old truck uses a lot of fuel and leaks and is not suitable for winter.

Haley reviewed the Public Works Department Transfer Station budget. There was discussion about the part-time attendant in the summer. Haley explains that it is helpful to have a 3rd person at the transfer station on busy summer weekends to monitor demo and recycling disposal.

There was discussion about the process for charging for demo and tires. Haley explained that we charge for tires (typically what we pay to dispose of them) but that the money brought in goes to the general fund and is calculated as revenue to offset the tax rate.

In relation to paying the fees to transport waste, Price asked if buying our own truck and hiring a new employee would be worthwhile. The increased amount of waste being disposed of was discussed. Tyrrell asked if we ever put out our barrell disposal to bid. Haley thinks Wallace Allen has always done it.

Tyrrell noted that the transfer station budget is always about \$40,000 under budget but that the proposal is to increase it by \$40,000 this year. He voiced that we should just leave the budget the same. Haley commented that it likely will not be that far underbudget this year. She noted that waste (tons/hauls) is monitored and the budget is based on the trends. Clarke commented that we need to estimate based on human behaviors.

There was a lengthy discussion about budgeting practices, the process of spending the leftover money from the previous years budget, the prospect of creating a separate budget line for the “rainy day fund” and the potential of creating limitations on the amount accumulated in the rainy-day fund. The capital improvement plan was again brought up and there was some continued debate.

Haley reviewed the Police Department budget. Police Chief Aaron Mick was present to answer specific questions. Price asked for clarification on the budget for payroll and Haley explained that 1 employees are salary, 3 are union and 2 are non-union. There was discussion about the plan to replace the 2018 SUV with a new cruiser, likely a pick-up, and whether the SUV could be used by the highway department. The SUV would not work for highway since the truck used by highway would need to haul a trailer. Kingsbury asked about the frequency of the Humvee use; Mick was unsure but Klinepeter said it is used many summer weekends at Fiddlehead.

Haley reviewed the Capital budget, noting that many of the items proposed were discussed in the individual departments budget reviews. Stanley Hill Road is the next road project proposed and will be fully completed over 2 years. The second year the final surface paving will be completed. Klinepeter commented that we have a 5-year road plan.

Price asked about the frequency that the stand-by generator would be used at the Town Office. Haley said it is rare that the office loses power long term but it does lose power a few times a year during the work-day and that if the outages are going to be long, then employees get sent home. Having a generator would allow continuity of work.

Haley noted that Harper is not available for the final meeting and final vote next week. Tyrrell made a motion to have the final meeting and vote on April 5th, which was seconded by Price and passed unanimously.

Tyrrell asked about the towns insurance and whether we are covered for replacement or actual cost. Haley will look into this.

Price made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Tyrrell and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:23.