

Fryeburg Budget Committee Minutes
February 22, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.
Virtual

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

Select Board Members Present: Tom Klinepeter, Tom Kingsbury

Haley called the meeting to order.

Price made a motion to keep the officers the same as last year. It was confirmed that Emery was the Chair and Tyrell was Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Tyrell and passed unanimously.

Haley reviewed the upcoming schedule of meetings and asked about members preference to meet in person or via zoom. After discussion, Price made a motion to meeting in person, which was seconded by Tyrell and passed unanimously. It was confirmed that the meetings would be at the David and Doris Hastings Community Center. Klinepeter suggested setting up a zoom meeting for back-up in case of bad weather. Haley will do so.

There was conversation about going over each budget in more detail and having more discussion. Haley commented that the initial numbers provided are not set in stone and there is room for debate and conversation so as to reach a consensus before the final votes. Tyrell said it is good to be able to ask Department Heads questions while they are present.

Haley began a line-by-line review of the following budgets:

- Civil Service: Price inquired about the increase in hydrant costs. Haley responded that this is set by Maine Water. Klinepeter commented that the PUC regulates these fees and that the fees go to maintenance, repair, and plowing of hydrants. Emery believes there are 80-90 hydrants in town. Klinepeter noted that there are 2 new hydrants on Christopher Street in service.
- Parks: Kingsbury asked about the electrical cost of the tree outlets. Haley confirmed that the CMP bills average about \$250/year. Price inquired about the parking plans for Westons Beach and how that might impact the costs of porta-potties. Haley commented that the Select Board is working on a plan for charging fees and determining how to operate Westons but that we should plan to cover the cost of porta potty placement and cleaning. D&J cleaned Weston's Beach porta potties twice a week last year and felt that was sufficient. Tyrell asked how much it costs to plow Weston's parking area; Haley responded that the Public Works Dept. does it when their other storm clean-up is completed so there is no budgeted amount set aside for that.
- Professional Services: No comments on the proposed budget lines.
- General Assistance: Tyrell proposed reducing the General Assistance budget from \$10,000 to \$5,000 with the knowledge that we get reimbursed 70% from the State. He also commented that the amounts used in the past 4 years was substantially less than budgeted. It was noted that the GA budget was reduced from \$14,000 to \$10,000 last year. Haley and Antonucci explained what GA could be used for and the eligibility requirements. Harper questioned whether we can make it easier for people to qualify so we can assist them. Haley responded that the eligibility is set by the State. Harper said if we can't make it easier for residents to get GA, then she would support moving the budget to \$7,500. There was discussion about other means to assist people that might not qualify for GA, including the Fuel Pantry and food vouchers. Price has concerns about lowering the GA this year given the pandemic. There was discussion about leaving the proposed budget at \$10,000 this year and reducing it next. Klinepeter commented that he would not support lowering it this year.

Haley reviewed the Earned Paid Leave law and a breakdown of the budget impact of this new law.

Tyrell made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Price and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.