

Fryeburg Budget Committee Minutes
March 18, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.
David & Doris Hastings Community Center

Budget Committee Members Present: Ed Price, Patrick Emery, Jim Tyrrell, Stephen Chase, Bruce Baker

Select Board Members Present: Tom Klinepeter, Tom Kingsbury, Greg Huang-Dale

Town Staff Present: Katie Haley, Andy Dufresne

Price called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Chase made a motion to approve the 3/4/2024 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Emery and passed unanimously.

Haley reviewed follow-up items from last meeting including the correction of 2 typo's in the Library and Saco Valley Fire Department Budget, the deferred compensation retirement amount in the Miscellaneous budget was reduced, Lake Stewards of Maine submitted a late request for funds, and the Parks budget was reduced based on the Select Boards decision to use ARPA funds for the fencing replacement at Graustein Park.

There was discussion about the request by Lake Stewards of Maine. Price reported that it appears that they test water quality on Lovewell Pond and Kezar Pond. There was discussion about their services and whether this testing is redundant with the testing that is completed by Saco River Corridor Commission. Tyrrell made a motion to not include this in this years budget but to reconsider next year. The motion was seconded by Price and passed unanimously.

Municipal Complex Budget Review: Price noted that the Select Board opted to use credit reserve funds for the \$300,000 requested by the Municipal Complex Building Committee, so no funds will be budgeted for.

Fire Department Budget Review: Chief Dufresne presented his budget. He noted that call volumes are increasing each year, by about 14%; this results in the need to budget more for the on-call firemen. The FD is continuing its multi-year plan to replace turnout gear. Price questioned the age and mileage of the Chiefs vehicle and asked for comparison in terms of mileage to police cruisers. Haley believes that the mileage is about 100,000 when cruisers are retired. Dufresne noted that the engine on his vehicle has high runtime hours.

Fire Department Capital was discussed. The proposal is to continue to set aside \$50,000 for apparatus replacement and \$74,500 for the Chief's Command vehicle. Chase clarified that the \$74,500 was a one-time expense to cover the entire vehicle cost. He suggested budgeting funds annually to prepare for the next vehicle replacement. The fire truck funds that have accumulated are being invested currently to gain maximum interest.

Administration Budget Review: Haley presented the budget. She noted that there is a desire to add a module to TRIO contractual services for heavy truck exercise. It is believed that the Town will benefit from this. Price asked for clarification on paid Family Medical Leave Act. Haley explained that the Town will be responsible for 0.5% of employee wages for 6 months of the fiscal year, so a 0.25 calculation was factored in to come up with that amount. Next year, the full 0.5 factor will need to be added in for the full year.

The next meeting is Monday, March 25th at 5:00 pm.

Chase made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Tyrrell and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 pm.