

Winchester, NH Budget Committee Meeting Minutes for Tuesday October 13, 2020

Members Present: Chester Lapointe- Chair, Tiffany Melanson, Theresa Sepe, Ben Kilanski (Selectman Representative) Lindseigh Picard (School Board Representative)

Also: Karey Miner, Amy Bond

Members of the Public: Natalie Quevedo, James Rokes, Jennifer Rhodes, Jonathan Gallup

Chester called the meeting to order at 6:01PM.

Ben made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Lindseigh seconds. Motion passes 5-0.

Chester asked for a role call. All Budget Committee members were present.

Chester noted his appreciation for the previous secretary Jennifer Rhodes and thanked Kevin Bazan for taking the minutes for the budget season. Amy Bond mentioned that there is \$500 available to pay the secretary for the Budget Committee.

Chester began discussion on the Town Departments on the agenda for the meeting.

1. Conservation Commission. Budget number did not change from the previous year. Ben made a motion to approve the budget amount of \$2277. Tiffany seconds. Motion passes 5-0.
2. Debit Service. Ben made a motion to approve a budget amount of \$138,127. Tiffany seconds. Motion passes 4-0-1. Lindseigh abstains from the vote.
3. Emergency Management. Ben mentioned that the budget is lower for next year. Ben makes a motion to approve a budget amount of \$15,067. Theresa seconds. Motion passes 5-0.
4. Executive. Theresa questioned Karey and Amy about potential increases in salary for town employees. Amy notes that the selectboard will be discussing that subject tomorrow night. Amy also mentions that this year the increases are in the Personnel Administration department, not Executive. The budget committee had questions about where the grant writer is in the budget. Theresa made a motion to approve a budget amount of \$77,364. Ben seconds. Lindseigh questioned Amy, Karey and Ben about where the grant writer will be listed in the budget in the future. Motion passes 5-0.
5. Financial. Ben made a motion to approve a budget amount of \$116,173. Tiffany seconded. Motion passes 5-0.
6. Forest Fire. Tiffany made a motion to approve a budget amount of \$13,100. Lindseigh seconded. Motion passes 5-0.
7. Government Buildings. There was discussion among the committee about the lower budget for next year. Karey and Amy mentioned how the town hall has a new, efficient boiler and prices for fuel are lower. Lindseigh questions why the audit is now listed in Government Buildings instead of Financial. Amy explained that this is the department it should be listed in. The cost of the

town report also moved to Government Buildings. Ben made a motion to approve a budget amount of \$194,809. Tiffany seconds. Motion passes 5-0.

8. Highway Block Grants. Ben made a motion to approve a budget amount of \$1. Theresa seconds. Motion passes 5-0.
9. Legal. The committee made comparisons between this year's line figures and what is proposed for next year. Different lawsuits that the town could be involved in were mentioned along with the legal cost for the Lawrence site. Theresa made a motion to approve an amended budget amount of \$68,100. Ben seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
10. Other Government. Chester questioned the dues amount of \$3300. Ben, Karey and Amy explained some of the legal help the town receives from the organizations that it pays fees to. Theresa makes a motion to approve a budget amount of \$3300. Lindseigh seconds. Motion passes 5-0.
11. Patriotic. Ben makes a motion to approve a budget amount of \$1000. Tiffany seconds. Motion passes 5-0.
12. Property Records. The committee had questions about the reduction to the software support line. Ben makes a motion to approve a budget amount of \$34,395. Lindseigh seconds. Motion passes 5-0.
13. Recreation. Ben makes a motion to approve a budget amount of \$1. Tiffany seconds. Lindseigh questions why this department exists in the budget. Amy and Karey explain that it is kept if the ELMM could not provide youth programs, the selectmen could transfer money into this account to provide a program. Motion passes 5-0.
14. Southwest Regional Planning Commission. Ben makes a motion to approve a budget amount of \$5000. Theresa seconds. Motion passe 5-0.
15. Streetlights. Theresa questions how much each light costs to illuminate. Theresa questions why the budget amount is higher this year. There was a discussion about an increase in rates for next year. Ben makes a motion to approve a budget amount of \$29,200. Theresa seconds. Motion passes 5-0.

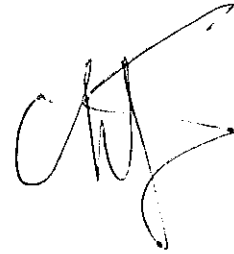
Lindseigh has a request of the budget committee from the school board. The school board is asking the budget committee to consider a motion under Chapter 32-11 and approve removing funds from the 2020 School Warrant Article #6 and divert those funds to the current air quality project. Theresa questions how much money is left to divert. Theresa also questions how much the air quality project costs. Theresa asks if there is any federal money available for these projects. Lindseigh says she does not have the current figures. As of October 13th, there is no federal money available. Chester is supportive of the transfer of funds as long as there is no additional cost to the taxpayer. Theresa makes a motion to utilize the remaining balance of Article #6 from the School 2020 Warrant and redirect those funds to the air quality control project. Chester seconds. Ben questions an earlier school board request to the selectman that asked for larger payments from the town. Ben asks how much of that money is used for the project. Lindseigh explains that the larger payment request was not just for building projects. An extra \$280,000 was asked to be paid over the course of three months and then lesser payments would be made for the next nine months. Theresa asks Lindseigh for an update on how much project money is left over and how much the air quality project will. She hopes that information will be available at the next meeting. Chester takes a question from the audience. James Rokes

asks that the vote be postponed to the next budget committee meeting. The committee explains that the next meeting is not until November. Motion passes 5-0.

Chester mentions that the next meeting for the budget committee is November 17th at 6PM at town hall.

Ben makes a motion to adjourn. Theresa seconds. Motion passes 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. H. J.', located on the right side of the page.