

**TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
BUDGET COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 98, 240 Middle Road
Center Tuftonboro, NH 03816
Telephone: (603) 569-4539 Fax: (603) 569-4328**

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Tuesday, December 10, 2019
6:30 p.m. - Town Offices**

Present: Chairman Hunt, Vice-Chairman Hartshorn, Bob Theve, Thomas Young, Barry Ennis, Guy Pike, Selectmen's Representative Albee and Karen Koch.

OPEN MEETING: After declaring a quorum, Chairman Hunt opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Vice-Chairman Hartshorn moved to approve the December 3, 2019 minutes as corrected, seconded by Tom Young. Vote passed 7-0.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: None.

BUDGET REVIEWS

4155 PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

01-4155-01-210 Health Insurance: Selectmen's Representative Albee explained that the health insurance line was reduced since the last meeting due to employee plan changes. There was discussion regarding the cost of family plan coverage, the difference in benefits between private and public employees, employee contribution to health insurance costs, the salary benefits package as a whole, compensation for insurance waivers, etc.

01-4155-01-215 Deductible/HRA Reimbursement: Karen Koch explained that the HRA reimbursement plan is used to provide employees with assistance paying co-pays and deductibles. The amount given to each employee is based on the health insurance plan they fall under.

01-4155-01-291 Longevity Pay: Karen Koch explained that longevity pay is granted after three years of employment. The amount depends on the number of years employed.

Motion: Vice-Chairman Hartshorn moved to approve budget 4155 for \$632,736, seconded by Guy Pike for discussion. There was discussion regarding Tom Young's question as to whether or not there is a way to vote to implement changes for next year. Chairman Hunt shared that he will vote against this budget due to his displeasure with how the Selectmen have dealt with this problem for ongoing years. He would like the HRA reimbursement removed and to see employee contribution to healthcare plan costs. Barry Ennis and Guy Pike shared their agreement with Chairman Hunt. Vice-Chairman Hartshorn revisited the results of the Thornton Study which showed that Tuftonboro is competitive and comparable with benefits offered by surrounding towns. Chairman Hunt agreed to Selectmen's Representative Albee's request that the Committee provide the Selectmen with a specific directive of their expectations. Barry Ennis suggested gathering employee input to begin the process for change. Vote did not pass 3-4. (Tom Young, Barry Ennis, Guy Pike and Chairman Hunt against.) This vote raised concern that cutting this section of the budget would reduce the Budget Committee's recommended budget \$632,736 less than the Selectmen's recommended budget.

4199 OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT

01-4199-02-690 JLMC-Safety Committee: Request remained level funded at \$150. Selectmen's Representative Albee explained the purpose of the Joint Loss Management Committee and noted that this line includes supplies necessary for small repairs.

01-4199-03-690 Capital Improvements Committee: The level funding request of \$325 includes printing of the CIP Committee's yearly report.

Motion: Tom Young moved to approve budget 4155 for \$475, seconded by Bob Theve. Vote Passed 7-0.

4414 ANIMAL CONTROL

Selectmen's Representative Albee explained that this budget funding needs to be available in the event that animal care is needed.

Motion: Bob Theve moved to approve budget 4414 for \$1750, seconded by Vice-Chairman Hartshorn. Vote Passed 7-0.

4619 OTHER CONSERVATION

01-4619-03-810 Tuftonboro Milfoil Committee: Request reduced from \$24,706 in 2019 to \$5,000 as it is unknown each year if herbicide treatment is necessary. The Selectmen discussed creating a warrant article to put \$20,000 into the Milfoil Expendable Trust Fund instead.

Motion: Guy Pike moved to approve budget 4619 for \$8,100, seconded by Vice-Chairman Hartshorn. Vote Passed 7-0.

NOVEMBER REVENUE

The Budget Committee reviewed November revenue. Selectmen's Representative Albee explained that the additional \$19,500 in estimated Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) revenue is handwritten on the report as it needs to be accounted for in 2019 estimated revenues even though it probably won't be received until 2020. This led to discussion regarding current use. Selectmen's Representative Albee shared that 01-3502-01-110 Interest on Investments includes interest on the undesignated fund balance and may include some collected taxes. Meals and Room Tax isn't reflected yet as it is paid at the end of the year. Chairman Hunt shared that the Library "Transfers from Trust & Agencies" revenue is an in and out account. He also explained the \$18,500 in Library income (under Income from Departments). By law the Library needs to have part of their budget provided by private sources every year. The total for payments collected in Lieu of Taxes is more than estimated.

NEW BUSINESS

BOS UPDATE:

Selectmen's Representative Albee shared that he requested the remaining budgets to be completed in time for the next Budget Committee meeting. He estimated the 2020 operating budget to total approximately \$3,508,698 versus 2019's budget of \$4,050,307. He hopes that the total cost of warrant articles will decrease in 2020. There was discussion about the possibility of reverting to a default budget and moving Town Meeting to another time/day of the year where more people may attend.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: At approximately, 7:31 pm, Guy Pike moved to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chairman Hartshorn. Vote passed 7-0.

The next Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for 1/7/2020 at the Town Offices.

Prepared and submitted by: Karen Koch