

TOWN OF TUFTONBORO  
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
240 Middle Road, Center Tuftonboro, NH 03816

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Present: Chairman Gordon Hunt. Members: Selectmen's Rep Chip Albee, Gary Chehames, Penny Hug, Rob Roriston, Chris Sawyer. Not Present: Jeff Reisner

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Hunt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. Quorum declared followed by Pledge of Allegiance.**

**III. Review/Approval of February 10, 2022 Minutes**

A motion to accept the Minutes of February 10, 2022 as presented was made by Ms. Sawyer and seconded by Selectman Albee. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Election of Officers**

- Chairman

Ms. Hug made a motion to nominate Gordon Hunt as Chairman of the Budget Committee, seconded by Selectman Albee. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

- Vice Chairman

Chairman Hunt made a motion to nominate Gary Chehames as Vice Chairman of the Budget Committee, seconded by Selectman Albee. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

- CIP Representative

Chairman Hunt made a motion to nominate Penny Hug as CIP Representative for the Budget Committee, seconded by Ms. Sawyer. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

**V. Chairman's Comments**

Chairman Hunt stated three matters of interest to the committee: 1) status of the new police building; 2) inflation; and 3) revaluation of properties. Chairman Hunt stated that town residents were surprised to see the new assessments, taken when real estate prices peaked. Since the assessment, real estate prices have dropped. Selectman Albee and the group discussed property assessments. Selectman Albee stated the new tax rate will be determined by the BOS by October 15th. Also, Chairman Hunt asked Selectman Albee when COLA would be determined; Selectman Albee stated mid-October. Chairman Hunt reminded Selectman Albee that the

committee would like to review the budget for salaries as early as possible. Also, as discussed last year, would like to see a spreadsheet from all departments and their independent buildings/location for individual costs. Chairman Hunt stated that Joe Kowalski has retired and no longer will be videoing the meetings for YouTube. Selectman Albee stated there is no requirement to videotape the meetings. The Town Office is set up with a video recorder; however, the Town House is not. Chairman Hunt stated the Town House should have a video recorder installed also; as it is not practical to share one between the two locations.

Vice Chairman Chehames requested of Selectman Chip Albee that he and the board of selectmen consider a different way of distributing any COLA increase. Vice Chairman Chehames doesn't believe it is distributed in the fairest manner. ~~His thought is distribution could be based on annual salary versus a percentage.~~ [insert] His thought is the COLA distribution could be a block amount for each employee versus being based on a percentage of their current salary. [end insert] Selectman Albee stated that the BOS use a regional COLA figure, not the national number.

**VI. Correspondence**

None.

**VII. Old Business**

None.

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Quarterly Reports**

In reviewing the revenue report, Chairman Hunt asked Selectman Albee what municipal property was sold; Selectman Albee stated the Lyon's property. Chairman Hunt asked about the Great Meadow donation; Selectman Albee stated it has been received. Chairman Albee discussed the budget process and answered questions from the group.

**B. NHMA Workshop**

Chairman Hunt encouraged the group to attend the upcoming NHMA workshop which is being held both in-person and virtually on September 20, 2022 from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm. The in-person workshop is being held at the Derryfield Restaurant & Banquet Facility in Manchester. Workbooks from this year's workshop will be available and a copy kept at the office.

**C. BOS Update**

Regarding the new police station, Selectman Albee stated it is still in the works. The BOS are meeting with the architects on September 13<sup>th</sup>. He stated there has not been a reduction in building costs; there has been a significant increase in earnings. A grant in the amount of \$120,000.00 has been allocated.

Selectman Albee spoke of the passed warrant article for Nineteen Mile Bay. Due to bureaucracy and property line determinations, it has been six months of delay. As the season is coming to a close, it appears the project will not be complete. The way the warrant article is written, the money cannot be carried over; so, a new warrant article will have to be written for 2023.

Selectman Albee stated that all salaries have been reviewed and were compared to other like-size towns in the state. Majority came in the median average range, and some were higher than average.

Selectman Albee acknowledged that the community was taken aback with the new assessments. He stated that the selectmen tried explaining the process in both the Tuftonboro Times and at selectmen meetings. He reminded the group that the assessment is a DRA requirement. Valuations were off by 27% and had to be adjusted accordingly. For any residents who consider the new ~~assessment~~ *[insert] reassessment [end insert]* to be off, an abatement can be filed. Ms. Sawyer stated that it came at a bad time, and it should have waited. Selectman Albee stated taxes will not change until next March 2023. The 2023 tax rate is yet to be determined, as there are many variables which are considered.

**IX. Discussion on future meetings, dates, time, and location**

The group discussed and decided to hold all budget committee meetings at the Town Office Selectmen's Room since it is equipped with a video recorder if necessary and acoustics will be better. Dates and time will remain the same.

Secretary Jane Lemire pointed out she was unaware of a new member to the budget committee, Jeff Reisner, and will email him to apologize he wasn't informed of this first meeting.

**X. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Chairman Hunt and seconded by Ms. Sawyer to adjourn the August 30, 2022 meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Jane Lemire, Town of Tuftonboro Budget Committee Secretary  
August 31, 2022*