

**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 6, 2022**

**Present:** Chairman Gordon Hunt, Vice Chairman Gary Chehames. *Members:* Selectmen's Representative Chip Albee, D. Dauphinais, J. Reisner, Rob Roriston, Chris Sawyer. *Staff:* Jane Lemire. Selectman Guy Pike

**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. Public Input** – None.

**IV. Review/Approval of November 15, 2022 Minutes**

A motion to accept the Minutes of November 15, 2022 as presented was made by Ms. Sawyer and seconded by Vice Chairman Chehames. All in favor; motion passed unanimous.

**V. Chairman's Comments**

Chairman Hunt welcomed the Budget Committee's newest member, David Dauphinais. Mr. Dauphinais is owner of the Tuftonboro General store.

The next budget committee meeting will be held at the Tuftonboro Library on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

A correction to the Budget Committee Roster: Ms. Sawyer's contact phone number is 603-569-8474.

**VI. Budget Reviews**

**A. 4195 – Cemetery**

Susan Weeks attended to review the budget and answer any questions from the group. Ms. Weeks pointed out that they are requesting the same amount as last year. She made note that the department did not overspend their budget in 2022 as the 2022 expended column states. The overage was due to a 2021 maintenance check not clearing until 2022. Chairman Hunt asked if there would be any 2022 end of year expenses. Ms. Weeks replied no other than perhaps cemetery markers. Ms. Weeks discussed the high cost of lawn care for the cemetery behind Town Hall. Over the last two years the cost was \$25,000.00 to

provide weed control, pest control, etc. If the lawn is expected to be meticulously maintained, the lawn care company stated they would have to provide service every year. Ms. Weeks mentioned that she does receive complaints from town residents as to the condition of the lawn. Chairman Hunt asked if those who buy plots at the cemetery also contribute to a perpetual care account. Ms. Weeks stated no, that buyers pay solely for the plot. The group discussed this as well as the monetary history of buying burial plots and perpetual care.

***A motion was made by Vice Chairman Chehames to accept the 2023 Budget for account 4195 Cemetery as suggested by the BOS in the amount of \$29,961.00; seconded by Mr. Reisner. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.***

**B. 4210 – Police**

Chief Andrew Shagoury attended to review the budget and answer any questions from the group. Chief Shagoury pointed out the overage spent for fuel to date and that two more months is still to be paid. On average, the department has paid \$4.40 per gallon for 87 octane. He stated that he has looked into other options for fuel, however, none were money saving. Chief Shagoury also stated that included in the line item for officers' salaries is 400 hours/\$11,000.00 for a requested part-time officer to help as needed, particularly during the summer. Mr. Roriston asked about the distribution of holiday pay. Chief Shagoury responded that the department follows the town's policy. He added that auditors make sure that payments and policy match/reconcile. The group discussed and asked to see a copy of the holiday policy; to which it will be forwarded to them. Mr. Roriston stated a column of what was budgeted next to the spent column would be helpful on the 5-Year Expenditure Report. Chief Shagoury also made mention of the overall state shortage of police officers and state troopers. Recruiting and retention are down 20-25% and in northern NH there are just 4 officers when there should be 12.

***A motion was made by Mr. Roriston to accept the 2023 Budget for account 4210 Police as suggested by the BOS in the amount of \$496,408.00; seconded by Ms. Sawyer. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.***

**C. 4324 – Solid Waste**

The group reviewed and discussed the solid waste budget. Ms. Sawyer pointed out that there was a \$108,000.00 increase over the last five years and the increase to salaries. Vice Chairman Chehames asked about line item for recycling assistant and if there would be another warrant article for a recycling machine. Selectman Albee stated the BOS have not met to determine warrant articles yet. The recycling assistant position does other duties and if there is a warrant article that is approved for recycling, he is/will be trained to do that. Two of the employees are already well-trained and one will have training. Selectman Albee also stated that the department plans to do metals and

electronic recycling. Mr. Reisner asked if there was training costs and more equipment costs in the budget for this? There is training costs in the budget for this. Mr. Reisner asked how the department determines who to sell valuable materials to and if the BOS require bidding from three companies for this? Selectman Albee stated it is up to the department head. Since this is a source of income for the town, Mr. Reisner deems it important to look at. In regards to the budget increase, Mr. Reisner asked if there is a policy/procedure in place to determine that trash disposal comes only from Tuftonboro. With such a significant budget increase, he believes we should look at this. Selectman Albee stated that there have been surveys to commercial haulers asking who they are hauling for; and agreed perhaps this should again be looked at. The group discussed multiple aspects of the disposal process.

***A motion was made by Mr. Roriston to accept the 2023 Budget for account 4324 Solid Waste as suggested by the BOS in the amount of \$529,434.00; seconded by Vice Chairman Chehames. 6 - 1, motion carries/passed.***

D. 4153 – Legal

Selectman Albee reviewed and discussed the legal expenses budget with the group. Mr. Roriston pointed out that in two other materials ~~(2)~~ he reviewed, the legal budget numbers are all different. Selectman Albee went over the variables of why but will find out a more concrete answer to this question.

***A motion was made by Vice Chairman Chehames to accept the 2023 Budget for account 4153 Legal as suggested by the BOS in the amount of \$52,350.00; seconded by Mr. Roriston. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.***

E. 4194 – General Government Buildings

The group reviewed and discussed the general government buildings budget. Chairman Hunt asked if the BOS see all actual invoices before payment to which Selectman Albee responded yes. Selectman Albee stated that majority of the 2023 increase was to electric and heat. He also mentioned that Jack Parsons and/or the fire department advise the BOS as to what maintenance and improvements are needed.

***A motion was made by Mr. Roriston to accept the 2023 Budget for account 4194 General Government Buildings as suggested by the BOS in the amount of \$165,791.00; seconded by Ms. Sawyer. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.***

VII. **Correspondence – None.**

**VIII. New Business****A. BOS Update**

Selectman Albee stated that on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> the BOS voted “no” to a warrant article for the Pop Whalen Ice Rink. They believe there are other avenues to find support.

Selectman Albee stated that on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> the BOS will meet via Zoom with the architects for the new police station in hopes of a budgeted redesign.

Selectman Albee suggested the budget committee may want one more meeting in December to review the warrant articles and overall total budget. Chairman Hunt stated that there are three dates in January (1/3; 1/17; 1/31 *if needed*) for this.

**IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Roriston and seconded by Mr. Reisner to adjourn the December 6, 2022 meeting. Motion passed unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Jane Lemire, Administrative Secretary  
December 7, 2022*