

**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**  
**For Budget Committee Meeting of**  
**Tuesday, January 17, 2023**

**Present:** Vice Chairman Gary Chehames, Selectmen's Representative Chip Albee, David Dauphinais, Jeff Reisner, Rob Roriston, Chris Sawyer.

**Also attending:** Selectman Guy Pike, Selectman Bob Murray, Fire Chief Adam Thompson, and Administrative Secretary, Jane Lemire.

**Absent:** Chairman Gordon Hunt.

**Special Notice**

Due to the unexpected absence of Chairman Hunt, Vice Chairman Gary Chehames chaired the Budget Committee meeting of January 17, 2023. In addition, the required public notice for the January 17, 2023 meeting was inadvertently not placed in a public location in the Tuftonboro Town Office Building, and accordingly the approval of these minutes at the next regular meeting of the Budget Committee on January 31, 2023 will also serve to reaffirm approval of all matters transacted at the January 17, 2023 meeting, as herein set forth below. In addition, a copy of these meeting minutes for January 17, 2023 shall be posted in the lobby of the Town Office Building for a two (2) week period in order to permit public review and comment. Any public comment should be directed to Ms. Jane Lemire, Telephone 603-569-4539, extension 24. Any such public comments shall be made a part of the recorded record of the Budget Committee.

**Agenda Items**

**I. Call to Order**

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

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

**III. Public Input**

Selectman Pike stated that he wants it clear that the Board of Selectmen's 3 – 0 recommendation of any matters that will be discussed and approved at this meeting is not necessarily an indication of his approval; but rather only reflects his recommendation that said 3 - 0 item go before the voters at Town Meeting .

**IV. Review/Approval of January 3, 2023 Minutes**

Next year, Ms. Sawyer would like to see a fire department budget that is more clear cut. More detailed information is requested for next year's (2024) budget review. In sum, intentional or not, she believes the amount of money that we are recommending to the voters is overstated with respect to the proposed new hire, start date of the new hire and the amounts budgeted for Firefighter's Allowance and Shift Coverage.

Vice Chairman Chehames noted these comments and asked if anyone wanted to reopen the previously approved budget for the Fire Department which we could do at this meeting. All demurred the matter was settled as per the budget amount of \$621,505 that was approved for the Fire Department. However, expenditures by the fire department will be reviewed by the Budget Committee during the summer months and the Fire Department will present next year's budget for this department with more clarity.

Mr. Roriston suggested the following clarification under VI. Budget Revisits, A. 4220 – Fire Department Revisit. *He requests we add the words, "...and that the Selectmen's adjustment for the budgeted cost reflected the difference in cost from January 1, 2023 through May 1, 2023.", directly to the end of the third sentence.*

***Motion: Ms. Sawyer moved to accept the amended minutes of January 3, 2023; seconded by Selectman Albee. Motion passed unanimously.***

#### **V. Chairman's Comments**

Vice Chairman Chehames stated he has learned Chairman Hunt is still recuperating and doing well and that he hoped to join us at our next regular meeting.

#### **VI. Warrant Articles**

Vice Chairman Chehames distributed the most recent/updated proposed Warrant Articles (copy attached). He reminded that Articles A, D, E, F, and G have not changed and will stand as approved at the Budget Committee meeting of held on January 3, 2023. At today's meeting, Articles B, C, and H, which are held over as unreviewed from the January 3, 2023 meeting, will be reviewed now, along with new proposed Articles I, J, K, L, M, O, and P.

**Article B:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$450,000.00) for the preparation and paving of major Town through-roads.

Selectman Albee stated that Article B is to top-coat/pave Federal Corner Road entirely, and to perform prep work and paving of half of Tuftonboro Neck Road. The entire cost for this work is \$457,068.00. A highway block grant is expected that will accommodate the overage of \$7,068.00.

Mr. Roriston stated he would have liked to see the Road Agent's overall plan pertaining to repaving town roads. Selectman Albee stated the Selectmen had reviewed the Road Agent's plan for this work and determined it is consistent with such plans for paving of town road in previous years.

Mr. Reisner also asked why the road agent wasn't an employee of the town. Selectman Albee responded that the road agent is an elected official and has been since the origin of the town. He stated that there has been discussion at times to make the Road Agent an employee as well as the addition of a highway department, but there has always been resistance to creating another employee base as well as incurring ownership of equipment. The group discussed the pros and cons of this.

***Motion: Mr. Roriston moved to Table Warrant Article B; seconded by Mr. Reisner. Vote passed 5 – 1.***

**Article C:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) for the preparation and paving of Tuftonboro Neighborhood Roads.

***Motion: Mr. Roriston moved to Table Warrant Article C; seconded by Mr. Reisner. Vote passed 5 – 1.***

**Article H:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00) to replace and equip the Fire Department's 2010 Car 1.

Chief Thompson handed out supporting documentation to the committee.

***Motion: Mr. Reisner moved to approve Warrant Article H; seconded by Mr. Dauphinais. Vote passed unanimously.***

**Article I:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) for the purchase of and installation of a 100kw solar/electric generator facility. Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) to come from a federal rebate. Two Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$210,000.00) is to be raised by taxes. This is a non-lapsing article.

Several committee members requested additional information regarding pay back details and contractual details of feeding power back into the grid. The life span solar panels was estimated to be 25 years.

***Motion: Mr. Roriston moved to Table Warrant Article I; seconded by Mr. Reisner. Vote passed unanimously.***

**Article J:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to establish an Engine 4 Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new fire truck as suggest by the Capital Improvement Committee.

***Motion: Mr. Reisner moved to approve Warrant Article J; seconded by Mr. Dauphinais. Vote passed unanimously.***

**Article K:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Six Thousand One Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$36,130.00) to purchase and equip a compactor to replace compactor 2 at the transfer station.

***Motion: Mr. Roriston moved to approve Warrant Article K; seconded by Ms. Sawyer. Vote passed unanimously.***

**Article L:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new wheeled loader for the transfer station.

***Motion: Mr. Dauphinais moved to approve Warrant Article L; seconded by Mr. Reisner. Vote passed 4 – 2.***

**Article M:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$52,000.00) to purchase and install a fire suppression system in the town office file rooms.

Selectmen Murray spoke in support of this warrant. The town records, particularly those that are considered historical, have not been digitized, and are at risk.

***Motion: Mr. Reisner moved to approve Warrant Article M; seconded by Ms. Sawyer. Vote passed unanimously.***

**Article N** is tentative and was not read and acted upon. It will be read and acted on at the budget committee meeting that will take place immediately following the public presentation of the operating budget by the committee.

**Article O** is tentative and will be further reviewed by the Selectmen; it may not be a matter for the purview of the committee.

**Article P** was discussed, and at the committee's recommendation the Selectmen will give consideration to rewording the article. Additionally, it is also possible this article will not be in the purview of the committee.

## **VII. Correspondence – None.**

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

Selectman Albee went over the budget comparison of 2022 and 2023 with the group. The increase could be in the range of 9%. The tax rate increase could be minimal if some portion of the undesignated fund balance is used.

**B. Other**

Selectman Albee will provide the numbers, plans and information for tabled Articles B, C, and I at the next budget committee meeting on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

**IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Roriston and seconded by Ms. Sawyer to adjourn the January 17, 2023 meeting.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.**

*Respectfully submitted by Jane Lemire, Budget Committee Secretary  
January 24, 2023*