

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, February 9, 2021
6:00 p.m. – Town House

Present: Chairman Gordon Hunt, Vice Chairman Bob Theve, Penny Hug, Helen Hartshorn, Barry Ennis, Selectmen's Representative Chip Albee, Gary Chehames *via telephone*

Call to Order / Open Meeting: After declaring a quorum, Chairman Hunt opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

- Budget Committee Suggested Operating Budget
Chairman Hunt proceeded to review the 2021 budget by each line item and answered questions pertaining. The 2021 total operating budget total is \$4,195,600.00; an approximate 2% increase over last year's budget of \$4,118,248.00 (see attached).
- 5-Year Operating Actual/Budget History Graphs
Ms. Hartshorn presented graphs to show how money is spent by department and by expense type as well as a five-year graph comparing the 2021 budget to previous years' expenditures (see attached).
- 2021 Estimated Revenue
Chairman Hunt reported that the Selectmen finalized the 2021 estimated revenue on Monday, February 8, 2021. The estimated revenue not only covers the operating budget but also any improved warrant articles. Chairman Hunt presented the 2021 estimated revenue grand totaling \$3,253,370.00 (see attached) and answered questions pertaining.
- Warrant Articles
Chairman Hunt proceeded to read all expense warrant articles aloud and answer questions pertaining. He explained that Articles 4 and 5 are the same issue but each article proposes a different funding option. Despite how the budget committee votes, there will still be the two articles on this matter.

Suspend Public Hearing

Public Hearing ended at 7:24 p.m. Closed.

Reconvene to Budget Committee Meeting

Review / Approval of January 19, 2021 Minutes: Ms. Hartshorn made a motion to approve the January 19, 2021 Minutes with two corrections to be made as presented; seconded by Ms. Hug. A roll call vote followed: Mr. Ennis – Yes; Selectman Albee – Yes; Ms. Hartshorn – Yes; Mr. Theve – Yes; Mr. Chehames – Yes; Ms. Hug – Yes; Chairman Hunt – Yes. Motion passed.

Warrant Articles Voting

Chairman Hunt revisited all expense warrant articles for voting purposes.

Article 04: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,00.00) to build and equip a new Police Facility and to authorize the issuance of not more than Six Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Two Dollars (\$685,742.00) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33); to authorize the selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof. Furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of Six Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Eight dollars (\$664,258.00) from a previously established Police Facility Capital Reserve Fund. Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) to come from an awarded USDA Grant.*

(Three-Fifth (3/5) ballot vote required per RSA 33:8)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 2-0 and the Budget Committee TBD)

After discussion and amendment, the following motion was adopted:

Motion: Vice Chairman Theve moved to approve this warrant article as written, seconded by Helen Hartshorn. A roll-call vote followed. Vote passed 4 – 3.

Article 05: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000.00) to build and equip a new Police Facility. Further, to authorize the withdrawal of Six Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Eight Dollars (\$664,258.00) from a previously established Police Facility Capital Reserve Fund. Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) to come from an awarded USDA Grant and Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00) to come from the Undesignated Fund Balance. Two Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Two dollars (\$285,742.00) to be raised from taxes. This article is contingent on Article 4 not passing. If article 4 passes, this article will be null and void.*

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee TBD)

After discussion and amendment, the following motion was adopted:

Motion: Penny Hug moved to approve this warrant article as written, seconded by Helen Hartshorn. A roll-call vote followed. Vote passed 4 – 3.

Article 06: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) to be added to the previously established Police Facility Capital Reserve Fund. This article is contingent on Article 4 and 5 not passing. If article 4 or 5 passes, this article will be null and void.*

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee TBD)

Motion: Penny Hug moved to approve this warrant article as written, seconded by Helen Hartshorn. A roll-call vote followed. Vote passed 6 – 0 - 1.

Article 07: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$248,000.00) for the replacement of Fire/Rescue Department SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) Equipment. Two Hundred Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$219,740.00) to be withdrawn from a previously established SCBA Capital Reserve Fund. Twenty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$28,530.00) to be raised from taxes.*

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee TBD)

Motion: Penny Hug moved to approve this warrant article as written, seconded by Helen Hartshorn. A roll-call vote followed. Vote passed 6 – 0 - 1.

Article 08: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000.00) to purchase portable radios for the Fire Department. A grant in the amount of \$120,000 dollars has been applied for and if awarded the amount the Town will receive is \$90,000 dollars. If the grant is not awarded to the town, the entire amount of \$120,000.00 will be raised by taxation.*

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee TBD)

Motion: Penny Hug moved to approve this warrant article as written, seconded by Helen Hartshorn. A roll-call vote followed. Vote passed 6 – 0 - 1.

Article 09: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$124,625.00) to pay a third installment toward the fire truck acquired in 2018 as approved by voters pursuant to Article 6 of the 2018 Town Meeting. The principal amount is \$115,951.00 and the interest is \$8,674.00. This five-year lease agreement contains an escape clause.*

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee TBD)

Motion: Vice Chairman Bob Theve moved to approve this warrant article as written, seconded by Penny Hug. A roll-call vote followed. Vote passed 6 – 0 - 1.

Article 10: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$370,000.00) for the preparation and paving of Town Roads.*

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee TBD)

Motion: Penny Hug moved to approve this warrant article as written, seconded by Vice Chairman Theve. A roll-call vote followed. Vote passed 5 – 1 - 1.

Article 11: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for the Design and Permitting of the Lake Road Project.*

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee TBD)

Motion: Vice Chairman Bob Theve moved to approve this warrant article as written, seconded by Penny Hug. A roll-call vote followed. Vote passed: 5 – 1 - 1.

Article 12: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventeen Thousand Dollars (\$17,000.00) from the Milfoil Joint Board to be deposited to the previously established Milfoil Expendable Trust Fund. No funds to be raised from taxes.*

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee TBD)

Motion: Vice Chairman Bob Theve moved to approve this warrant article as written, seconded by Penny Hug. A roll-call vote followed. Vote passed: 6 – 0 - 1.

Article 13: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to purchase land to add to the Great Meadow project. With \$20,000.00 to come from a private donation and \$20,000.00 to come from the Tuftonboro Conservation Fund. The remaining amount of \$60,000 to be raised from taxation.*

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee TBD)

Motion: Helen Hartshorn moved to approve this warrant article as written, seconded by Vice Chairman Theve. A roll-call vote followed. Vote passed 5 – 1 - 1.

Article 14: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00) for the purpose of completing improvements to the section of Willand Road that was approved for conversion from a Class VI to a Class V status by Article 24 of March 10, 2020 Town Meeting. The sum to be reimbursed by the property owners abutting or served by such road through a betterment assessment pursuant to RSA 231:28 thru RSA 231:31.*

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 2-0 and the Budget Committee TBD)

Motion: Helen Hartshorn moved to approve this warrant article as written, seconded by Penny Hug. A roll-call vote followed. Vote passed 6 – 0 - 1.

Article 15: *To see if the town will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further, to raise and appropriate Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to put in the fund. Said sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at year end will lapse into the general fund.*

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0 and the Budget Committee TBD)

Motion: Helen Hartshorn moved to approve this warrant article as written, seconded by Penny Hug. A roll-call vote followed. Vote passed 6 – 0 - 1.

Article 18: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of Four Million One Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$4,195,600.00) for general Town Operations. The Selectmen recommended Four Million One Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$4,196,100.00). This article does not include any special or individual warrant articles.*

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Budget Committee TBD)

Motion: Vice Chairman Bob Theve moved to approve this warrant article as written, seconded by Helen Hartshorn. A roll-call vote followed. Vote passed 6 – 0 - 1.

Other:

The budget committee took a straw vote regarding the Police Station Project. The budget committee voted in favor of the project with a 6 – 1 vote.

Chairman Hunt thanked Helen Hartshorn for her hard work and time spent on the budget committee over the years. Due to her term ending and decision not to seek another term, there is a vacancy on the budget committee.

Public Input: None.

Adjournment: Motion: At 7:50 p.m., Chairman Hunt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Hug. A roll call vote followed: Mr. Ennis – Yes; Selectman Albee – Yes; Ms. Hartshorn – Yes; Mr. Theve – Yes; Mr. Chehames – Yes; Ms. Hug – Yes; Chairman Hunt – Yes.

*Respectfully submitted by Jane Lemire, Administrative Secretary
February 12, 2021*