

Town of Tuftonboro
Budget Committee Meeting
October 03, 2023

Present: Rob Roriston, Gary Chehames, David Dauphinais, Jeff Reisner, Selectman Albee, also present were Selectman Murray, Selectman Pike and Town Administrator Fraizer

Absent: Brendan Gaughran, Chris Sawyer

Chairman Roriston called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

It was determined there was a quorum followed by the pledge of allegiance.

There was no public input.

Approvals: Gary Chehames made a motion to accept the minutes of April 4, 2023, August 15, 2023, September 19, 2023 and September 26, 2023. The motion was seconded by David Dauphinais. Jeff Reisner abstained as did Selectman Albee. The motion passed (3-0-2)

Chairman Roriston Comments

Chairman Roriston would like to have the reports formatted differently. Town Administrator Fraizer will work with the MuniSmart system to determine if some of the reports can be created. Chairman Roriston reviewed the "Budget Committee Thoughts on Process" sheet he had distributed. There was some discussion about what is feasible and what would be onerous to create. For example, the Total Cost for a department which includes benefit costs and financing associated with the specific department is not an easy number to figure as the accounting system does not support a breakout of the benefits by department.

Review of Budget Items

4153 – Legal: The committee discussed each line item and what types of legal expenses may be anticipated. In looking at the trends it is obvious where there were lawsuits. Selectman Albee described a couple of potential items in the Conservation and Cemetery line items that may have expenditures in 2024.

Chairman Roriston reminded the Committee that the budgets would only be reviewed tonight. The budgets would be tabled until the next Budget meeting for voting.

4414 – Animal Control: Selectman Albee stated the local animal shelter had not been used but should continue to be budgeted for. The NHSPCA and Other Dues remained flat for 2024.

4442 – Direct Assistance: Selectman Albee described what the various line items were for. There are several local organizations that are supported in 4415-Health Agencies that provide help to Tuftonboro residents. The Budget recommendation by the Selectmen was to reduce the Direct Assistance from 2023 because the need has not been great. Dave Dauphinais asked about the high the historical figure. Selectman Albee stated there was one person who they had significant difficulty placing. The Budget Committee was supportive of the Town supporting local agencies.

4583 – Patriotic Purposes: This budget line item is for the American Legion to place flags on the Veteran's graves in Town cemeteries.

4589 – Gifts and Donations: Selectman Pike explained that this line item is a small amount for the Town to be able to send flowers to an employee's family if there is an illness or death or to recognize an employee or residents' accomplishment as the Board of Selectmen deem appropriate.

General Discussion

There was discussion regarding the Site Visits to the Fire Department and the Transfer Station. The common theme was the need for equipment. Chairman Roriston pointed out that prior to purchasing equipment the future direction of the department had to be evaluated. There was discussion regarding about how to word warrant articles so capital reserve funds could build but also to keep the definition of the fund from being too specific in the event the future need changed.

The next site visit is at the Highway Garage on Tuesday October 10th at 4:00 p.m.

Selectman Pike reminded the Budget Committee that funding the Contingency Fund is important to deal with the unexpected expenses like the Town experienced this calendar year (major rain events destroyed roads and culverts).

Board of Selectman's (BoS) Update

Selectman Albee informed the Budget Committee that the BoS had reviewed and approved a 3% cost of living increase for employees. Additional merit increases would require an employee performance review and discussion with the BoS.

Selectman Albee brought the Budget Committee up to date on the Solar proposal. He hopes to have three proposals within the next week. There was discussion about the Solar market.

Other

Chairman Roriston asked about mandating recycling at the Transfer Station. Several pros and cons were mentioned. Education on recycling should be taking place. The BoS will talk to the Supervisor of the Transfer Station.

At 8:30 p.m. Gary Chehames made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by David Dauphinais. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Fraizer