

Selectboard Budget Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Present: Tom Fitzgerald, John Gannon, Vince Rice, Sarah Fisher (out at 10:15 am), Tony Tribuno (8:23–11:00 am)

Others Present: Scott Tucker, Jessica DeFrancesco, Marshall Dix, Matt Murano, Sarah Kociela, Christine Richter, Jessica Roberts, John Lazelle, Scott Moore, Chris Lavoy, Therese Lounsbury, Erik King, Lucas Bernard, Meg Streeter

Meeting called to order at 8:15 am

1. Visitors, Public Comments, Changes to the agenda
2. FY25 Budget
 - Proposing 5% cost of living wage increase across the board for all employees. Cost of living is around 3–3.5%, but inflation is still very present and we are fortunate to be fully staffed.
 - Capital Accounts; Public lands and fences increase due to tennis courts, but recommend to use 1% Fund to offset this increase. Memorial Hall Capital Fund will be used to stabilize the building and flood resiliency, and to revitalize the building exterior.
 - Revenue is down, mostly due to surplus.
 - Computer support has a large increase; software, emails, and numerous renewals. With more ransom issues and cyber-attacks, looking to budget an IT firm to manage all of our devices to be proactive vs reactive.
 - Cemetery is looking to remove some dying maple trees and pave the new turn around at Riverview.
 - Police Dept; addition to payroll for an School Resource Officer, still waiting for approval from the school. Employee Wellness; new line. Check and balances for health and well-being of staff, prevent work burnout, keep them from bringing work issues home with them. Cruiser replacement will be taken from capital. The only change in capital is the addition of the cruiser, which was put in at 50% of the current cost.
 - Fire Dept; Asst Chief stipend up 27%. Takes care of training, radio maintenance and covers when Chief is out of town. Increase in stipend line for volunteers. They run on a points system for trainings and calls. The more volunteers and higher attendance, the less everyone makes; increasing the budget would help. Capital shows appropriations so that in 2028 a pumper truck can be replaced. Extrication equipment needs replacing; a grant will be sought. Radios need replacing–\$200,000.
 - VLCT insurance increased this year. Social services; 5 groups asked for increases this year and 1 new request. Childcare tax has been added under employee benefits, 0.44% of payroll.
 - Transfer Station; new attendant, the new setup seems to be helping keep things clean.

- Recreation; summer camp salary increases, adding a mobile skate park.
- Town Hall Capital; air conditioner needs replacing.
- Public lands will be reduced and tennis courts will come from 1% Fund.
- Highway; stabilization/fabric/hay line historically did not include fabric expense; the new amount includes fabric. PPE needs replacing after so many years.
- Bridge Capital; a box culvert wing-walls are failing that was replaced after Irene. It is a necessary replacement. Two culverts on Old Ark that need replacing.
- Would like to pave the first section of Whites Rd off Stowe Hill (760 feet) to keep the gravel off Stowe Hill. Adams Dr; short road and would remove one truck having to go to that end. Deerfield Valley Rescue is located there. Going to test out a refurbishment on the 2016 International to save some money.
- Flowers; current vendor has left. No responses to RFP. Suggesting it all be moved to 1% Fund.
- Wastewater; chemicals have doubled in cost. Permit is due which could require more testing, so testing has been increased. ECU's will be finalized in the summer.
- Water; training increased to accommodate Brandon's trainings as an Assistant Operator. Anticipating water rates to remain the same this upcoming year.

3. Other Business

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 am

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica DeFrancesco

Approved by the Wilmington Selectboard:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Chair

John Gannon, Vice Chair

Vince Rice, Clerk

Sarah Fisher

Tony Tribuno