Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

12-09-20

Attending:

Donna Duclos

Mary Levesque

Todd Goings

Jim Hanson

Jim Hersey

Adam Jones

Molly Morgan

Carla Levesque Recording Secretary

Called to order at 6pm.

Jim Hanson read the right to know checklist.

Old Business:

Jim Hanson moved to accept minutes from 11-18-20 and 12-02-20. Adam Jones seconded. Roll call vote as follows:

Mary Anne Levesque Aye

Molly Morgan Aye

Todd Goings Aye

Donna Duclos Aye

Jim Hersey Aye

Adam Jones Aye

Jim Hanson Aye

Motion carrie

The Fire Department Budget request was discussed. The $20,000.00 for a fire car was discussed. Although the capital reserve fund has the$ 20,000.00 Todd Goings brought up the need for the town to provide insurance, maintenance, and fuel increasing those line items. Donna Duclos stated that because of Covid the town is looking for a flat budget. Jim Hanson asked if the $20,000.00 would be taken from the Fire Truck Reserve. More information is needed.

The Recreation Department request was discussed. $3,000.00 was requested for sprinklers and repairs at Blackwater Park. Donna Duclos inquired if this could be put off. The Recreation Department is not providing transportation and is not likely to in 2021 due to Covid.

Mary Anne Levesque moved to reduce the Recreation Department Budget to $11,600.00. Donna Duclos seconded.

Roll call vote as follows:

Mary Anne Levesque Aye

Molly Morgan Aye

Todd Goings Aye

Donna Duclos Aye

Jim Hersey Aye

Adam Jones Abstain

Jim Hanson Aye

Motion carried.

Andover EMS/Emergency Medical Services request is the same as last year. Mary Anne Levesque observed the AEMS budget is always lean and accurate and sometimes returns money to the town at the end of year. Contract with Franklin for Ambulance Service continues. Mary Anne Levesque moved to accept the AEMS budget. Donna Duclos seconded.

Roll call vote as follows:

Mary Anne Levesque Aye

Molly Morgan Aye

Todd Goings Aye

Donna Duclos Aye

Jim Hersey Aye

Adam Jones Abstain

Jim Hanson Aye

Motion carried.

The Library Committee request was flat at $40,500.00. Donna Duclos extended her appreciation for all the library has done.

Mary Anne Levesque moved to accept the Library Committee budget. Donna Duclos seconded.

Roll call vote as follows:

Mary Anne Levesque Aye

Molly Morgan Aye

Todd Goings Aye

Donna Duclos Aye

Jim Hersey Aye

Adam Jones Abstain

Jim Hanson Aye

Motion carried.

The Cemetery Committee Budget request presented by Bill Keiser 12-02-20 was discussed. The Cemetery Committee is requesting money for fall clean up not done in 2020 but this was not requested of the Highway Dept. in 2020. In previous years the fall clean-up is light and a major clean occurs in the spring. cemetery Committee is asking for $13,600.00 for labor but previous years has been $6,000.00. The Cemetery Committee Is asking for $1,200.00 for a sexton. Last year the budget was zero because there was no sexton. In years past when there was a sexton the line item was $750.00. The cemetery committee states that it wants to carry over unspent money from 2020 to defray expenses in 2021 but Todd Goings (Selectman) said no such request has been made to the Selectmen. Mary Anne Levesque moved to reduce the Cemetery Committee budget to $22,255.00. Donna Duclos seconded.

Roll call vote as follows:

Mary Anne Levesque Aye

Molly Morgan Aye

Todd Goings Aye

Donna Duclos Aye

Jim Hersey Aye

Adam Jones Abstain

Jim Hanson Aye

Motion carried.

The Village Water District reports a budget of $68,200.00. This is down from $79,070.00 in 2020. No action needed.

Planning Board/Zoning Board requested an increase of $500.00 for training and dues to be shared by both boards. Mary Anne Levesque moved to accept the Planning Board/ZBA budget at $3,0423.00. Donna Duclos seconded.

Roll call vote as follows:

Mary Anne Levesque Aye

Molly Morgan Aye

Todd Goings Aye

Donna Duclos Aye

Jim Hersey Aye

Adam Jones Abstain

Jim Hanson Aye

Motion carried.

The Police Department budget went up from $212,301.00 last year to $216,672.30 mostly due to routine increases in wages and a retention raise. The expenses for uniforms is down and dues are in line. Mary Anne Levesque moved to accept the Police Department’s budget at $216,672.30. Donna Duclos seconded.

Roll call vote as follows:

Mary Anne Levesque Aye

Molly Morgan Aye

Todd Goings Aye

Donna Duclos Aye

Jim Hersey Aye

Adam Jones Abstain

Jim Hanson Aye

Motion carried.

Forest Fire Budget request was $4,000.00; $3,000.00 for labor. Last year the budget was $14,000.00 because of the purchase of a new gator. This year no such expense is anticipated. Mary Anne Levesque moved to accept the Forest Fire Budget. Donna Duclos seconded.

Roll call vote as follows:

Mary Anne Levesque Aye

Molly Morgan Aye

Todd Goings Aye

Donna Duclos Aye

Jim Hersey Aye

Adam Jones Abstain

Jim Hanson Aye

Motion carried.

The Conservation Commission request was discussed. The upkeep of the beaver deceivers is split between the Conservation Commission and the Highway Department. Years ago, when the beaver deceivers were purchased the town was told that they did not need maintenance. This is not true. The Conservation Commission will monitor the beaver deceivers and get the money from the Highway Department as needed. Currently a man from Vermont services them and because of the travel distance is expensive. The Conservation Committee is looking for some one local, perhaps less expensive.

Mary Anne Levesque moved to adjourn. Donna Duclos seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Carla Levesque Recording Secretary