

Budget Committee January 3, 2024

Approved

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Donna Duclos, chair.

Present: Kayla Chandler, Mark Cowdrey, Jim Delaney, Donna Duclos, Scott Hilliard, Janet Moore (recording secretary), Elita Reed, Jim Reed, Greg Stetson.

Donna moved to accept the 12/18/23 minutes as written; the vote was unanimous.

Below is the schedule of upcoming meetings:

January 10: School budget public hearing 6:00 pm

January 11: Select board and capital improvement program committee, budget members may attend 9:00 am (work session)

January 11: Select Board meeting 6:00 pm

January 15 (MLK Day): Budget committee work session 6:00 pm-warrant articles, etc.

January 17: Town budget public hearing 6:00 pm

Line item discussions on town budget:

1. Secretary wages for Select Board: increased to 26 meetings-4 hours @\$20 per hour.
2. Select Board salary and trainings: COLA increase, and 2 additional members.
3. Tax Collector wages: COLA increase, and compensation for 35 hour work week, as voted at the 2023 town meeting.
4. Tax Collector office supplies: Municipal Records Committee supplies-Town Administrator Scott Hilliard stated that establishing the committee is a priority.
5. Town Treasurer: we need one with Jess Rand not running-position of greater responsibility and town office presence than appears. There was discussion regarding the role and the responsibilities.
6. Discussed compensation (a stipend?) for the Finance Director for filling in for town administrator twice.
7. Town office: electricity down-locked in at good rate, purchased solar array.
8. Town office alarm system: new.
9. Health insurance: 13 full time employees-4 new positions, some still unfilled.
10. IT: new copier, lease increase.
11. Police department: Budget Committee recommended that the Select Board and the Chief come to an agreement on a proposed wage increase to facilitate filling an open position.
12. Highway department: grader operator hired on part time, as needed basis; long discussion about actual labor costs.

So far, Janet Moore
Recording Secretary