

February 5, 2024
Budget Committee Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at 6:33pm by Chairman, Tom Seymour

Attendance: Chairman, Tom Seymour, Secretary, Wendy Rosa, Selectman Ex-Officio, Frank Razzaboni, School Board Ex-Officio, Charlie Estes, Joann Irving, Joan Machado, Frank Simeone, Bruce Blazon

Selectmen: Shaun Bresnahan, Steven Thomson

Water Commissioners: Charlie Estes and Steven Thomson

Public: David Thomson

The meeting began with continuing of exploration of the Water Services Line #4332 There are ongoing discrepancies of whether to show the line, which is awash in the budget and does not affect taxation, at all. In the past the presentation has been done in a Warrant Article making the process clear.

Charlie Estes contends that there have been misappropriations of funds that he feels the Selectmen can account for. Shaun Bresnahan maintains that the Selectmen do not do the books for the Water Service. Frank Razzaboni acknowledges that from a business view, the Towns union with the Water Service is like that of a guarantor. Steve Thomson states he would like to see that change. SB told the Committees that he would look further into the expenditure in question (17K) and let the Budget Chair know what he finds but he states that it was taken care of and paid to the best of his knowledge. Bruce Blazon summarizes by stating that this accounting reflected in the report now needs to be dealt with as it has been stated it would be, and then going forward the line should not be in this reporting as it has been understood by all to be a wash. It does not affect taxation. It was stated that Town Clerk, Shelly Henry has consulted with Former Water Commissioner, Gerry Desrochers to get more clarification on the administrative accountings.

The next Discussion had to do with the Legal Expense line. This line allows for \$5500, and it was recommended to be raised by \$9500 by Bruce Blazon to cover needed litigation costs should the town be sued. Shaun Bresnahan, Selectman states that BB is probably correct and Steve Thomson added that that would be discussed at the next Selectmen's meeting being held tomorrow night. A vote was then taken by the Budget Committee to raise the Legal Expense line from \$5500 to \$15,000 which unanimously carried.

The question put forth by the Budget Committee on the standing of Tax Arrearages was answered as satisfactory.

Motions and Votes were then conducted accordingly, and Articles 1-11 were all unanimously accepted. (note on Article 11; monies made from tree harvesting will pay for the Forest Harvester and there will still be money made for the town after expenses are paid)

The school Budget also was approved and voted for unanimously by the Budget Committee all questions asked and answered satisfactorily. Charlie Estes assured Joann Irving of her concerns of Adequacy Aid coverage continuing to offset taxation by stating that it will.

Meeting for Public Town Hearing is set for Monday February 12, 2024, in the Amsden Auditorium at 6:30pm