

**Town of Hill  
Budget Committee  
2025 Budget**

**02/12/25 Public Hearing Minutes**

**Members Present:** Bruce Blazon (Chair), Betty Hanks, Frank Simeone, Tom Angeley, Joann Irving, Shaun Bresnahan (Sec/Ex-Officio), Wendy Rosa-Fuller (Ex-Officio)

**Members Absent:** Marshall Bennett (V. Chair), Bill Machado

**Public:** 12 Residents attended hearing

The public hearing was opened at 7:00 PM followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Proposed Town Budget was reviewed:

4130 Executive – Discussed the planned retirement of Admin Assistant in August and the plan to create two part-time positions; 1) Book keeper and 2) Clerical clerk. Joann Irving commented it would be nice to get someone with Grant writing Experience. Tom Scribner commented that a dedicated Clerical position should insure timely minutes.

4140 Town Clerk – Increase in election expense is for the purchase of Tablet for sight impaired voters and laptop for Supervisors of the checklist.

4150 Tax Collector – Increase in software support.

4152 Revaluation of Property – Decrease represents last years expense of 5 year cyclical revaluation. Maryanne Moses asked if there were any funds for abatement following the cyclical revaluation. Shaun replied that \$50,000 was held in unreserved fund balance.

4153 Selectmen Legal – Tom Seymour asked why this line was decreased to \$10,000 when there was \$20,573 in expense. Shaun replied that two big issues were resolved and we also have a \$10,000 Litigation expendable Trust.

4155 Personnel Admin – This covers workman's comp and employee retirement savings plan.

4192 Planning and Zoning – Legal is down; last year it was increased in case of Greenacre Woodlands appeal.

4194 Government Building – Slight decrease because of fuel oil contract.

4195 Cemeteries – Increase of \$4,950 is for mowing cemeteries including Pleasant Hill.

4196 Insurance – Increase in premiums for Property and Liability insurance.

4210 Police – With the recent resignation it is anticipated that this position will be re-filled. We have been told that a local officer is interested.

4215 Ambulance – The \$75,549 increase represent Hill's share of hiring (3) new personnel to help cover calls to contract towns.

4220 Fire – Selectmen level funded wages and broke wages to firefighters and chief. Joann commented on the last minute submittal of 10 PO's totaling approximately \$10,000 as miss management of funds by the chief. If that hadn't happened the Fire line would have been under spent by approximately \$31,000. Joann also commented that most of the equipment testing was never done. Frank Razzaboni asked how much of the \$21,000 that was unspent is necessary? Shaun replied that with all of the turmoil in the department last year we don't now what normal activity is. Paul Gile voiced his support of the current staffing of the Hill Fire Department. For a call fire department the do the best they can with the time and money that is available and they care about the community.

4290 Emergency Management – Shaun commented the equipment line is for the maintenance of the generator. With last years turn over of the fire chief nothing was done.

4312 Highway – Shaun commented this represent what our Road Agent wanted prior to his passing. We we will be replacing him and will have a warrant article to establish this position as an Expert Agent per RSA 231:64. Joann asked if there were sufficient wages to pay new agent; yes there is enough and with the position vacancy that will insure there is enough.

4312 Reconstruction of Highways – 2024 expense was for the replacement of cross drainage culverts on Bunker Hill Road prior to re-paving and for materials to fix washouts on Stone House and Burrough Roads. The 2025 budget is for under drainage of 700 feet of Bunker Hill Road prior to this years final paving.

4324 Solid Waste – Increase in rates for solid waste, recycle and construction demo disposal. In 2025 we are in year 3 of a 7 year agreement.

4332 Water Services – This is the Water Commissioners budget for 2025. This expense is offset by water rates and paid by the uses.

4415 Health Agencies – Shaun explained these organizations provide medical services for the residents of Hill. Donation's help insure the agencies are available.

4440 Welfare – Shaun explained how recipients are required to pay the town back and that by law we lien properties of recipients.

4520 Parks and Recreation – Not much change in 2025 budget request.

4550 Library – Shaun explained the Library Trustees are responsible for managing there funds. The town pays them after town meeting. Increase represents pay raise for the Librarian.

4583 Patriotic Purposes – Shaun explained the increase is for the flags for the newly acquired Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

4619 Conservation – Covers Conservation Commission dues.

4723 Tan – Shaun explained this is to cover Tax Anticipation Note; this is a short term loan if there is a delay in property tax collection. In 30 years it was used once.

At this point the hearing was opened to any further questions regarding the proposed budget.

Paul Giles asked Administrative Assistant wages and are there going to be three positions in the office? Shaun replied no, Lisa will retire in August and we will have two part time employees. One employee will do book keeping and another will do clerical work (minutes, letters, filing etc).

Tom Seymour commented that there were no Budget Committee appropriations listed. Will there be any recommendation tonight? Bruce replied that the Committee will make their recommendation during the Public Meeting that follows.

Tom Scribner asked about past due taxes? Shelly Henry replied that 95% of 2024 taxes were paid. In total there is about \$150,000 from multiple years. She wasn't anticipating being asked this question and invited anyone to come the office and she could produce the information.

Next the Selectmen's Proposed 2025 Revenues were reviewed.

3120 Land Use Changes – Only 3 properties will be assessed this tax in 2025.

3185 Yield Taxes – Lower because stumpage rates have fallen because of poor markets which will lower the values that DRA sets.

3187 Excavation – Tom Seymour asked how many active pits in Town? There is only one with a permit to operate.

3190 Interest & Penalties on delinquent taxes – it is anticipated to be equal to last year.

3210 Business Licenses & Permits – This is driven by ORHV registrations and hunting & fishing licenses.

3220 Motor Vehicle Fees – Increase because of high prices for new vehicles.

3230 Building Permits – Most of this is the sq. ft. fee for new construction.

3290 Other Licenses, Permits and fees - it is anticipated to be equal to last year.

3352 Rooms & Meals – since the State will be receiving \$2 Billion less from the federal government in the next biennium it is anticipated that revenue sharing will be reduced.

3353 Highway Block Grant – This amount was provided by NHDOT.

3356 State & Federal Forest – This is payment for Wade and William Thomas state Forests.

3357 Flood Control Reimbursement – Town assessor re-assessed the Old Town and it was increase to \$8 million dollars. It is unlikely that the NH & MA state legislature will vote in the extra money. Fingers crossed.

3401 Income from Dept. - Pistol permits, fees collected for Planning & Zoning Board hearings.

3501 Sale of Municipal Property – Re-purchase agreements for properties taken by the town for back taxes. This represents all back taxes, interest, penalties & legal expenses. Next year we hope to harvest some timber.

3502 Interest on Investments – Interest on Town Sweep account.

3503-09 Transfer Station Fees – with increase fees we will collect more.

3914 Water – Offset for the appropriation to run water system.

3915 From Capital reserve – Money from Transfer Station Improvement Capital Reserve fund for lighting at transfer station.

3916 From Trust & Fiduciary Funds – 2/3 Interest & Income from Ferrin Fund to off set taxes.

3934 Fund Balance Transfer – This represent money to pay for two of the warrant articles. If passed they will not be funded by the tax rate.

At 8:40 a 5 minute recess was taken

at 8:45 Public Hearing resumed.

The proposed warrant articles were reviewed.

Article 2 – Town budget; Selectmen’s proposed amount \$1,462,659

Article 3 – Paving 10,800 feet of Bunker Hill Road for \$198,320

Article 4 – Create Cyclical Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund; raise \$5,000 and Selectmen to be named agents to expend.

Article 5 – Improve lighting at Transfer Station; cost \$3,000 and come from Transfer Station Improvement Capital Reserve fund.

Article 6 – To fund Capital reserve Funds in the amount of \$112,500. From taxation.

Article 7 – authorize withdrawal of \$45,043 from Ferrin Fund per trust document.

Article 8 – To transfer \$3,900 from unreserved fund balance to Road Improvements Capital Reserve. This money was received from a logger who damaged Bunker Hill Road shortly after it was re-paved.

There were no comments or question from the public or committee members regarding these warrant articles.

The Chairman asked if there were any further question; as there were none, Wendy made a motion to close the public hearing; Betty seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 7-0

Respectfully Submitted  
Shaun Bresnahan; Secretary