

**Board of Selectmen
Budget Meeting
Minutes
November 22, 2021**
(Approved December 6, 2021)

Chairman V. MacDonald convened the meeting at 6:00 PM. The following staff members were present:

Virgil MacDonald, Chairman
Paul LaRochelle, Vice-Chairman
Reuben Wentworth, Selectman
Brock Mitchell, Selectman
Bob Holt, Selectman
Ryan Heath, Interim Town Administrator
Laura Parker, Finance Manager

Surplus Balance Estimate

L. Parker stated that there is 20.42% left of the Budget. You still have all of December and part of January for bills to come in.

Fund Balance

L. Parker presented the Fund Balance.

Proposed Budget Estimate

R. Wentworth stated that he would like to ask the Board if they have a problem with the 9.43% when last year they had a problem with a 7% increase. He is asking for a motion to approve the \$8,984,669.00. He will be voting against it. Discussion ensued about possible cuts. R. Wentworth stated that if the Budget was at a 5% increase he would vote for it. P. LaRochelle asked if there was a proposal as to what should be cut. R. Wentworth stated that he does not. R. Wentworth stated that he would like the 5% decrease and asked how much that would be. P. LaRochelle asked what the percentage would be if the Budget were cut by \$300,000.00. L. Parker stated that would be a 5.7% percent increase. P. LaRochelle would like to compromise and go with a 7% increase.

R. Wentworth made a motion to reduce the Budget by 4.43% and B. Mitchell seconded for discussion. Various scenarios were discussed for the cuts. R. Heath stated that he could come back to the Board with a spreadsheet with various choices. The vote was called with 2 (Two) affirmative and 3 (Three) opposed (BM, BH, VM)

B. Holt made a motion to instruct the Finance Director and Interim Town Administrator to come back with a possible \$200,000.00 reduction and show what the increases are for the 3 (three) new positions and P. LaRochelle seconded with 4 (Four) affirmative and 1 (one) opposed (RW).

2021 Tax Rate

The new Tax Rate of \$11.38 was presented. That is without taking out any money from Fund Balance.

R. Wentworth made a motion to approve the Tax Rate of \$11.38 and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Tax Impact Estimate on Warrant Articles – Request from Budget Committee

L. Parker stated that there are a lot of issues with putting the Tax Impact on the Special Warrant Articles.

V. MacDonald made a motion to send it out as a Warrant Article to the voters and let them decide and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Other Business as deemed necessary

R. Heath stated that Saturday's Auction went very well. \$272,000.00 was raised.

R. Heath stated that he has an update on the Cemetery Engineering. The DPW Director and Parks and Rec. Director had a special meeting with the Engineering Firm. Due to COVID issues they had to appoint a new Head person.

Non-Public Session

V. MacDonald moved at 6:51pm to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3,II,a(wages), b (Hiring) c(reputational). R. Holt seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes	P. LaRochelle – yes	R. Wentworth – yes
R. Holt – yes	B. Mitchell – yes	<u>Roll call vote carried unanimously</u>

V. MacDonald moved at 7:08pm to exit nonpublic session. P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes	P. LaRochelle – yes	R. Wentworth – yes
R. Holt – yes	B. Mitchell – yes	<u>Roll call vote carried unanimously</u>

V. MacDonald moved to 'not divulge' the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board or render the proposed action of the board ineffective. P. B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

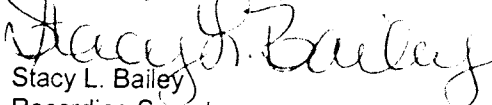
V. MacDonald - yes	P. LaRochelle – yes	R. Wentworth – yes
R. Holt – yes	B. Mitchell – yes	<u>Roll call vote carried unanimously</u>

In Public session B. Mitchell moved to hire Melinda Ferreira as the Assistant Finance Manager with a starting hourly rate of \$19.75. P. LaRochelle seconded. Motion Carried.

Adjournment

V. MacDonald moved at 7:10pm to adjourn. B. Mitchell seconded. Motion carried.

(Respectfully submitted,


Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary