

Advisory Budget Committee

Minutes

November 23, 2021

This meeting was at the Barrington Town Hall with remote participation available.

Members Present: Steve Saunders, Michael Houst, John Morris, and Scott Shephard

Alternates Present: Dannen Mannschreck

Others Present: Conner MacIver

Steve Saunders called the meeting to order at 4:37 pm.

Steve Saunders moves to approve the meeting minutes from the November 9th meeting. The group agrees.

The group started by discussing the Land Use budget.

John Morris asked what the Land Use Consultants line was budgeted for. Conner MacIver explained that the Town will be updating the Future Land Use Chapter of the Master Plan. Strafford Regional Planning Commission will be the consultant.

Michael Houst asked about the overrun of the Land Use Salary line. Conner MacIver explained that was a calculation error and there would actually be a \$12,000 surplus in that line.

The group discussed the Building Department budget and had no questions or concerns.

The ABC reviewed a proposed warrant article to add 'fire' to the purpose of the Ambulance Revolving Fund. The group supports this warrant article and recommends the Select Board add it to the 2022 warrant.

The ABC reviewed a proposed warrant article to automatically direct cemetery revenue into an Expendable Trust Fund opposed to having a separate warrant article each year. The group supports this warrant article and recommends the Select Board add it to the 2022 warrant.

John Morris shared his recommendations for use of unassigned fund balance for capital reserve requests. The group will finalize recommendations and priorities at the November 30, 2021 meeting.

Steve Saunders asked to consider what criteria the ABC should use to prioritize the warrant articles. How immediate is the need? What is the cost?

John Morris asked if we need to budget for the Town Hall bond interest payment. Conner MacIver suggested keeping the \$25,000 in place due to the uncertainty of if borrowing will be necessary.

Dannen Mannschreck suggested trying to spend the appropriated money where it was appropriated opposed to moving appropriations around. He advocated for maintaining a sizeable Incident Fund.

The Select Board recently agreed to sponsor a warrant article increasing the All-Veteran Credit to \$650. This is a continuation of the agreement made last year (to increase the credit by \$100 each year). Subsequently, the Town received a petitioned warrant article to increase the credit to \$750. That tax rate impact would be \$0.035 for \$650 and \$0.07 for \$750. The ABC recommended that the Select Board continue with the Town's previous commitment/discussion of \$100 per year.

John Morris shared his proposals for funding the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve. This is a continuation of the ABC conversation last year which proposed using the Ambulance Revolving Fund as part of the funding source. The ABC will discuss the options further at the November 30, 2021 meeting.

Michael Houst asked about what new/additional vehicle or equipment was expected to be necessary in the Fire Department.

Steve Saunders asked about the plans for the new or expanded Police Department.

Next week, the group will discuss final recommendations, prioritizing warrant articles, and the proposal for additional library hours.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Conner MacIver.