

Draft of the Advisory Budget Committee Meeting Minutes to Review the operating budget and warrant articles

Tuesday November 26, 2019

In Attendance

Peter Royce

George Bailey

John Morris

Dan Mannschreck

Also attending and participating: Conner MacIver

Absent: Steve Saunders

Meeting called to order at 4:32 PM. No action was taken on the minutes from November 19.

Discussion began with the warrant articles. As the Select Board could alter these and other budget items, the members of the ABC will meet on January 14 for a final review. The votes here are preliminary and subject to review at that time.

1. On the library bond, it was noted the Board has established that only funds in the bank can be cited at the Deliberative Session on February 1. A remaining question is how much the library trustees have contributed, and are those funds included in the fundraising and expenses? The vote for the library bond was 1 in favor, 3 opposed.
2. Greenhill bridge; in favor 4-0
3. \$100,000 for extra paving funds; in favor 4-0.
4. Raise Highway Equipment request to \$100,000. It was noted that this increase brings the unreserved fund balance down to approximately 12%. Voted in favor 4-0.
5. Bridge and Culvert; in favor 4-0. It was noted that Young Road may be the next project in the future.
6. Emergency Communications: A vote was deferred until we have more information. Specifically, the members of the ABC would like more information on the timing for the purchase of the new radios and new radio upgrade. Already planned is to get the highway equipment on the current system. We question if the current level of requests will be enough to cover these expenses.
7. Fire Truck: A vote was deferred until we have more information. Again, there was concern if the Town is saving enough to cover replacement purchases. The decision on the 1995 tanker will be an important consideration (replace all or just the tanker).
8. Fire Rescue; in favor 4-0.
9. Tricentennial Celebration; in favor 4-0.
10. Library Technology; in favor 4-0.
11. Cemetery; while it will be amended based on sales, members of the ABC are in favor 4-0.

Discussion was on what expenses could be shifted to the Recreation and Ambulance Revolving funds. Among the Rec items discussed were lines 4611, 4612, and 4754. Items in the Fire/EMS budget were 4432 and 4433.

A further question focused on mileage expenses. Can the mileage expense for training and conferences be included in those lines, so mileage and conferences will be more clear as to the actual cost?

George left at 6:00 pm.

It was voted that a warrant article should be written to expand the Ambulance Revolving Fund to include the Fire Department.

Recommendations on the Operating Budget: All votes were in favor 3-0.

1. Reduce the Incident Fund (01-4130-09-4810) by \$25,000 to \$75,000.

2. Reduce the Legal line (01-4153-01-4332) by \$10,000 to \$48,000.
3. Reduce the Gen Govt Buildings-Contracts line (01-4194-01-4350) by \$2,000 to \$16,500 to eliminate funding for a dumpster.
4. Reduce the Gen Govt Buildings-Building Maintenance (01-4194-01-4431) by \$25,000 to \$50,000.
5. It is recommended to include the \$15,960 requested by the fire chief to expand the shift coverage (line 01-4220-01-4124).
6. Reduce the Highway Building Maintenance line (01-4311-01-4431) by \$10,000 to \$30,000.
7. Reduce the Transfer Station Building Maintenance line (01-4321-01-4431) by \$5,000 to \$10,000.
8. Reduce the Rec Facilities and Maintenance line (01-4520-01-4431) by \$400 to \$512 to eliminate funding for a dumpster.
9. Reduce the Rec mileage line (01-4520-01-4580) by \$900 to \$224.

If an additional meeting is required, it will be scheduled before the January 14 date.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Royce