

Advisory Budget Committee

Minutes

October 13, 2020

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

Members Present: Steve Saunders, Peter Royce, and Dannen Mannschreck

Others Present: Conner MacIver (arrived at 5:45pm), Tracy Hardekopf (remote), and Amy Doherty (remote)

Members Excused: John Morris

Steve Saunders called the meeting to order at 4:34.

Tracy mentioned that she still has not been sworn in.

Dannen moves to approve the minutes as amended with the change in time for when Tracy left the meeting. She left at 4:58 not, 5:58.

Steve said the agenda would be the Transfer Station and Highway.

The group discussed the Transfer Station budget item for bulky waste. Peter added that this is the only expense item that has historically not been receiving enough revenue to offset the expenses. Steve Saunders would like to ask for a trend in bulky waste tonnage/expenses to consider an increase in bulky waste. Tracy posed a question regarding the COVID pandemic and if they think the bulky waste utilization will increase because of that. The group discussed that the Transfer Station is doing a better job about charging accurately for bulky waste since Erin was appointed Transfer Station Administrator earlier this year.

The group discussed the updated fee schedule for the highway and what Waste Management will be charging.

The group consensus is that they ask to increase the budget line from \$105,000 to \$107,500 for 4350-Contracts/Waste Management.

The group consensus is that they ask to reduce the budget line from \$72,500 to \$70,000 for 4361-Bulky Waste.

The group consensus to ask why the increase of \$2,500 for budget line item 4343-Monitoring Wells. Is something changing to justify this increase?

The group consensus for budget line item 4431-Building Maintenance is to ask what this money will be used for.

The group consensus is to get a better understanding of budget line item 4432-Equipment Maintenance.

The group began discussing the Highway Department budget request.

Peter made a general comment to request that the road agent provide a detail of any increases and decreases. In addition, Tracy would like to request that the road agent provide details on the open position and if he needed to make changes to his budget.

The group consensus for budget line item 4349-Consultants is to get justification for the increase of \$35,000.

The group consensus for budget line item 4439-Street Sign Maintenance is that they are looking for more clarification.

The group discussed budget line item 4452-Paving. Their questions were do we have an adequate budget for the paving projects? Do we need additional warrant article funds to keep the roads? Tracy mentioned that two major road construction projects were not yet decided at a previous meeting which was around \$350,000.

Conner joined the meeting at 5:45 pm.

Peter commented on the \$5 per registration fee was supposed to fund paving projects in 2020 but that has not happened yet. Conner explained that did not happen because the road projects were completed with less money than originally estimated at and the town did not need to use that funding source.

The group felt strongly that the Town should have a comprehensive ten-year road plan. Conner explained that he and the Road Agent completely agreed and that they will work with the Select Board. Conner explained that the Board would need to approve that.

The group consensus is that they would like to see the Town budget more for paving projects.

The group consensus was that they would like the Road Agent to provide an explanation for the questions above prior to the Monday night Select Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Doherty.