

Advisory Budget Committee

Minutes

December 1, 2020

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

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

Others Present: Conner MacIver, Amy Doherty (remote)

Steve Saunders called the meeting to order at 4:35.

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from the November 4th meeting. Steve moves to approve the minutes. The motion passes.

The group discussed the Select Board meeting from November 30th. The group clarified the 4112-account line for the Recreation Administrative Assistant as it was stated in the meeting, as account 4110. They discussed that they are appreciative of the Recreation Department for taking on the expenses in the Recreation Revolving Account.

The group discussed the 2021 paving budget was agreed upon by the Select Board to use \$175,000 from the Transportation Fees Capital Reserve Account. The group is pleased.

The group discussed the Select Board's review of the Library Warrant Article and the Select Board agreed that \$75,000 was too high. The Select Board wants to leave the language alone and change the amount to \$25,000. The ABC discussed that the Library Director stated in the meeting that the money would be used to reduce the bond amount. The Advisory Budget Committee will discuss this article more later in the meeting.

The Select Board was not in agreement to add Fire to the Ambulance Revolving account and thought they would be double dipping from the Town. The group discussed QuickMed Claims and how they process the Town's Ambulance billing. The group would like to look at whether they want to bring it up again and educate the Board on how the Town would come up with \$600,000 in a few years. The group wanted to make it clear that the Fire and Ambulance would be one account, not two.

The All-Terrain Warrant Article was a surprise to the group. Conner MacIver explained that this was a new agenda item and that it came up quickly so the group would not have known about it. The Fire Chief would like the community to make the decision through a warrant article, but the Select Board was not in favor of this idea.

The group reviewed the operating budget, going line by line. Most of the group's recommendations were accepted by the Select Board. The group would suggest going forward, there should be a column that represents the ABC's suggested changes. This would make it easier to review and locate changes at the end of the budget process.

The group discussed the development of the new Town Hall and asked which year the loan will be taken out of. Conner MacIver expects the construction would take 7 months and will be completed in 2021. He also mentioned that a bank loan would probably be the most beneficial for the Town, rather than from the Bond Bank.

The group is very pleased with the process and the responsiveness of the Department Heads. The group agrees with the operating budget as it is presented.

The group moved onto discuss the warrant articles.

The group would like to clarify to the Select Board the need for additional saving toward Fire and EMS vehicle replacement. An alternative approach will be calculated to help demonstrate why the Advisory Budget Committee felt that adding 'fire' to the ambulance revolving fund was the best option for the community. The alternative approach which also satisfies the current replacement schedule is to have an \$80,000 capital reserve request this year and to increase the amount by \$10,000 each year.

The Emergency Communications Capital Reserve-The group would like to increase this by \$10,000 in order to help set funds aside for the communication replacement needs of the Police Department.

Library Warrant Article-The ABC would like to clarify the funding source of the \$25,000. The group unanimously felt like this article should be funded by property taxes and not taken from fund balance. The group feels that this approach helps achieve the goal of measuring community support for the project. The group is in consensus to leave the language in the article to be flexible if the amount is \$25,000 and it is raised by taxes.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Doherty.