

Advisory Budget Committee

Minutes

September 6, 2022

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

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

Others Present: Conner MacIver, Amy Doherty, Bill Irving (virtual)

Steve Saunders called the meeting to order at 4:32.

Steve Saunders requested the group discuss roles within the group.

Steve Saunders nominated himself as Chair. The group supported this.

The group introduced themselves and welcomed new members.

The group reviewed the budget calendar and the process during budget season. The next meeting is scheduled for September 27th and budget binders are expected to be available by September 20th.

The group discussed the budget binder materials. No changes were requested.

Conner MacIver addressed questions from the ABC:

John Morris asked for a breakdown of the 2022 Incident Fund expenditures. The budgeted \$50,000 has been fully committed by the Select Board. Approximately \$25,000 went towards the purchase of the Code Enforcement Chevy Equinox. The remaining \$25,000 went towards the Public Safety Building Feasibility Study. Another \$7,000 has been committed to an engineering study for a generator.

Scott Shepard asked about inflation and how it related to expenditures and revenues. Conner MacIver explained that the Town is on track to be approximately 3% under expenditures. Vehicle and heating fuel increases will have to be adjusted for the 2023 budget. Salt prices increased 40% at the end of 2021 and is expected to continue to increase into 2023. Motor vehicle revenue is the largest source of locally collected revenue for the Town. Increased vehicle costs and decreased availability have likely contributed to reduced motor vehicle registration revenue. Building permit fees are also a large source of revenue which may be impacted by inflation.

The group discussed the Town's fee schedule.

Scott Shepard asked about funding emergency expenditures and Conner MacIver explained the process for utilizing unassigned fund balance in case of emergent expenditure needs.

Peter Royce would like to know if the ambulance fee per mile is round trip or one way? Conner MacIver will follow up on that.

Conner MacIver let the group know that he has invited all department heads to the ABC meetings when their department is being discussed. The group felt that would be beneficial.

Steve Saunders discussed prioritizing warrant articles this budget year. The group agrees.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Doherty.

DRAFT