

## Budget Committee Minutes

November 17, 2022

DRAFT

### **Roll Call:**

Present: Andy Tolman, Chris Sammons, Ed Sims, Marty Hanish, Eric Dyer

Absent: Ellen Schneider, Teresa Shaw (both excused)

### **Election of Officers:**

Motion made by Ed Sims and seconded by Chris Sammons to nominate Andy Tolman as Chair. Motion made by Ed Sims and seconded by Chris Sammons to nominate Marty Hanish as Vice-Chair. Both motions passed as a slate my unanimous vote. Eric Dyer noted that the Budget Committee did not need to elect a Secretary as the Town would begin providing staff support for taking minutes, which was well received by the committee.

### **Budget Committee Schedule:**

The committee discussed the meeting schedule and agreed that Wednesday meetings would work best for everyone.

### **Budget Goals:**

The committee briefly considered the Select Board budget goals and heard an update from Eric Dyer on the process of revising the municipal account structure and policy on carry-forward / reserve accounts. There was general agreement these changes would be for the better. The following bulleted list is a compilation of budget goals (merged to avoid duplication) presented by Budget Committee members, in no particular order:

- Maintain a low mil-rate and minimize tax impacts by assessing the value of any proposed projects and reviewing staffing and equipment needs
- Ensure IT plans are implemented and that proper technology is in place, and upgrade the TRIO system and reporting options
- Continue to focus on maintaining infrastructure and work on improving our Main Street areas
- Freeze debt service, or at least be very careful with any increase
- Continue to manage road surfaces thoughtfully, including consideration of alternative paving methods, and maintain non-highway assets like the Transfer Station Road
- Pursue cost-effective and attractive recreational opportunities and support the open space fund
- Consider minimizing or eliminating government functions that are no longer important or necessary and review the cost effectiveness of in-house versus contracted services
- Ensure a connection between budget goals and comprehensive plan goals
- Support the heating assistance fund and be aware of economic pressures within the community
- Continue to support energy efficiency and consider funding for the previously approved municipal solar project
- Increase public participation
- Pursue creative financing, grants, and community donations for projects
- Review insurance and other administrative costs
- Use reserve accounts to soften budget impacts

### **Adjournment:**

Motion made by Ed Sims and seconded by Chris Sammons to adjourn at 8pm. Unanimous.

*Minutes prepared by Eric Dyer*