

Town of Readfield
Fiscal Year 2024 Public Budget & Meeting Hearing
Regular Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, March 22, 2023 – *Approved*

Budget Committee Present: Andy Tolman (Chair), Chris Sammons, Marty Hanish, Ed Sims

Select Board Present: Kathryn Woodsum, Sean Keegan, Carol Doorenbos,

Other Attendees: Eric Dyer (Town Manager), Teresa Shaw (Finance Officer), Anjelica Pittman (Board Secretary), Jessica Gorton, Paula Clark (Planning Board Chair), Donald Clark, Sandra Rourke, Rosalie Kimball, Brandon Fike, Via Zoom – Grace, Bill, Mike, Darcy & Henry, Holly Rahmlow

Excused Absent: Dennis Price (Select Board Chair), Steve DeAngelis, Ellen Schneiter

Call to Order

Welcome & Introductions – 5 min.

- The Select Board and Budget Committee introduced themselves.

Review of Budget & Meeting Goals - 5 min.

- Kathryn discussed the budget and meeting goals and explained the responsibilities of each the Select Board and Budget Committee in the budget process.

Presentation & Discussion of Summary Budget Information - 80 min.

- Eric presented the budget draft via slideshow. He also explained the difference between designated and undesignated funds.
- RSU 38 estimated tax increase at 10% but could change as the RSU continues to work on their budget. The County increased taxes 5% overall with only about 1% increase for the town of Readfield because there has been less growth here than other towns.
- The Fire Department sprinkler system is already bonded for \$200K at 1.9% interest. The fire marshal informed Eric that if no one is using the overnight rooms at the Fire Department the need for a sprinkler system could wait. There is an opportunity to use that bond toward the new firetruck to lessen the interest on a large chunk of the fire truck purchase, leaving the remaining amount to be bonded with a higher interest rate as anticipated. The last firetruck bond from 2016 is due to be paid off in FY24.
- 4.4% or about \$46K increase in the municipal budget for FY24. Nearly identical to the tax impact in 2020.
- State of Maine has been increasing tax values of homes about 10% over the last couple of years, Readfield revaluation begins this year in order to keep up with the state so the town can get tax breaks through the state and to keep the mil rate down. Estimated mil rate currently 15.92. The mil rate and the valuation work hand in hand to keep property taxes linear and ensure the town can use the maximum homestead exemption allowance for resident's homes.

Town Meeting Warrant Discussion - 30 min.

Proposed Land Use Ordinance Revisions

- Paula Clark – Planning Board Chair - annual review ongoing of the ordinance and a package with revisions. Planning board revisions will be discussed at their next meeting on March 27, once the board

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agrees on the revisions, they will present it to the Select Board for approval. This year there is some clarity and reorganization being done, the board has modified some language to make standards clearer and included pieces from state legislature.

Proposed Beach Ordinance

- The Beach became free to residents in the last few years, due to that transition, and without having formal rules already for the beach; an ordinance is being proposed to give an administrative structure to better care for the beach. The ordinance provides a legal basis to keep things on track for beach use.

Proposed Comprehensive Plan Update

- Jessica Gorton – Comprehensive Plan Committee Chair – started process in 2020, derailed by the pandemic. Most of the draft is on the town website available for review. Nearly 300 responses to the surveys and those responses are also on the website. KVCOG has been a great help with the plan update. Nearing the end of the process, will be voted on in June.

Sean **motioned** to extend the meeting for ten minutes, Carol **seconded**.

- The entire Comprehensive Plan is voted on as a singular vote, if it is voted down it will be relooked at. Now is the time to discuss changes with the committee. The plan does not obligate the town to spend anything.

Kathryn **adjourned** the meeting at 8:40PM.

Minutes submitted by Anjelica Pittman, Board Secretary