

Barbara Campbell _____

Frank DiFruscio _____

Robert Thompson _____

**Budget Hearing #1 Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2024
Unofficial Until Approved**

Present: Barbara Campbell, Chairman, Frank DiFruscio, Selectmen, and Robert Thompson, Selectmen.

Attendees: Julie Hoyt Town Administrator, Betsy Eaton Administrative Assistant, Chief Perley, Sgt Mike Mosher, Jay Henry Fire Chief, Gary Allen Road Agent, Emily Benson EMD, Kevin Bennett Building Inspector, Linda Terry, Bill Terry, Fred Tompkins, Jerry Dougherty III, Jerry Dougherty IV, Ben English Jr., Linda and Hank Dresch, Joyce Allan, Bobbi Meserve, Leslie Schomaker, Terry Wyman, Ginger Perkins, John Heropoulos, Dick Bennett, Sarah Clemons and Hank Benesh, Videographer

1. The Meeting was called to order.

2. Review Operating Budget

The Budget was reviewed line by line.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
SELECTMEN	\$29,279	\$28,945	\$35,022
Elected Officers' Salaries	25,979	25,645	31,722
Selectmen's Expenses	900	900	900
Treasurer's Expenses	2,400	2,400	2,400

Jerry Dougherty said that he does not believe that the Elected Officials should receive a cost of living increase, because these positions are not connected to a living wage.

Barbara Campbell made a motion to accept the Selectmen's section of the Budget, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
TOWN CLERK	\$94,693	\$90,013	\$108,901
Town Clerk/Tax Collector & Deputy Wages	74,193	70,282	85,401
Expenses	18,000	14,848	15,000
Elections & Registration Expenses	2,500	4,883	8,500

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the Town Clerk section of the Budget, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	\$208,288	\$215,840	\$227,422
Office Wages	127,038	137,427	130,922
Operating Expenses	5,500	5,021	5,500
Town Office Building Expenses	25,000	20,280	25,000
Professional Fees	25,000	25,279	30,000
Training /Dues / Fees	14,250	16,861	22,000
Utilities / Communication	5,500	6,788	8,000
Equipment	2,000	593	2,000
Town Report Printing	4,000	3,591	4,000

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the Financial Administration section of the Budget, seconded by Barbara Campbell. All approved.

Sarah Clemons requested wage and benefit information to be included in the Town Report.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
ASSESSING	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$44,000

Barbara Campbell made a motion to accept the Assessing section of the Budget, seconded by Bob Thompson. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
LEGAL	\$35,000	\$21,515	\$35,000

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the Legal section of the Budget, seconded by Barbara Campbell. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION	\$508,241	\$467,390	\$570,177
Health Insurance	283,270	267,830	315,742
NHRS	164,276	141,267	190,215
FICA & Medicare	60,695	58,293	64,219

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the Personnel Administration section of the Budget, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
PLANNING & ZONING BOARDS	\$11,000	\$2,567	\$11,000
Planning Board Expenses	10,000	2,567	10,000
Zoning Board Expenses	1,000	-	1,000

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the Planning & Zoning Board section of the Budget, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
GENERAL GOVERNMENT PARKS & BUILDINGS	\$43,500	\$43,257	\$44,500
Town Hall (Historical Society) Expenses	-	4,151	-
Old Library - Utilities and Expenses	6,500	6,799	7,000
Town Grounds & Maintenance Expenses	5,000	4,626	5,500
Town Electrical Expenses	32,000	27,681	32,000

Barbara Campbell made a motion to accept the Government Parks and Buildings section of the Budget, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

There was some discussion on how much savings the Town solar panels were providing toward electricity costs.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
CEMETERIES	\$12,000	\$10,050	\$12,000

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the Cemetery section of the Budget, seconded by Barbara Campbell. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
INSURANCE	\$78,123	\$78,123	\$90,731

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the Property & Liability Insurance section of the Budget, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
BUILDING INSPECTION	\$68,350	\$66,423	\$81,024
Building Inspector Wages	54,350	54,921	56,524
Building Inspector Expenses	5,000	4,674	5,000
Vehicle Fuel and Maintenance	5,000	1,796	5,000
Septic System Design Review	4,000	5,032	14,500

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the Building Inspection section of the Budget, seconded by Barbara Campbell. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
POLICE	\$379,018	\$312,091	\$377,135
Police Dept Wages	333,668	267,151	328,285
Fuel	14,000	9,594	12,000
Vehicle Parts & Repairs	9,000	9,147	12,000
Supplies / Consumables	4,750	4,993	4,750
Utilities / Communications	7,000	9,431	7,000
Equipment	5,000	5,152	7,000
Medical Equipment	500	(510)	500
Training /Dues /Fees	5,000	5,808	5,500
Special Detail	100	1,325	100

Chief Perley reviewed the uniform costs and what needs to be purchased when a new officer joins the Department.

Barbara Campbell made a motion to accept the Police Department section of the Budget, seconded by Bob Thompson. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
AMBULANCE	\$46,660	\$46,660	\$61,540

Barbara provided details on the Ambulance Budget and explained the new scheduling structure which is causing an increase in wages.

Frank DiFruscio made a motion to accept the Ambulance section of the Budget, seconded by Bob Thompson. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
FIRE	\$213,523	\$203,113	\$229,339
Fire Wages	116,173	129,010	135,039
Fire Code Inspector Wages	500	120	1,000
Gasoline/Oil	7,000	5,016	7,000
Operating Expenses	11,750	11,710	14,000
Special Equipment	17,500	14,293	17,500
Testing Equipment	8,500	6,127	8,500
Utilities & Propane	16,000	8,547	16,000
Training	2,000	650	2,000
Parts & Repairs	8,800	12,343	10,000
Building Maintenance	5,000	3,607	5,000
Emergency Communications - Tyrol Radios	14,000	5,390	7,000
Hydrants Services	6,300	6,300	6,300

Chief Jay Henry explained the reduction on the Tyrol Radio line item.

Barbara Campbell made a motion to accept the Fire Department section of the Budget, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$10,848	\$8,467	\$13,801
Emergency Mgmt. / Health Officer / Deputy Wages	6,848	6,277	9,801
Emergency Mgmt. / Health Officer Expenses	4,000	2,190	4,000

Emily Benson explained some of the items in the Emergency Management Department expenses.

Barbara Campbell made a motion to accept the Emergency Management section of the Budget, seconded by Bob Thompson. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	\$264,965	\$256,009	\$275,564
Highway Wages	264,965	256,009	275,564

Frank DiFruscio spoke about the new culvert program through the Highway Department.

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the Highway Administration section of the Budget, seconded by Barbara Campbell. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
HIGHWAY	\$372,857	\$287,513	\$455,962
Sand	29,000	22,025	29,000
Gravel	12,000	11,757	17,000
Salt	35,000	38,107	40,000
Culverts	5,000	17,961	50,000
Hwy Road Maintenance	100,000	43,916	100,000
Street Signs & Flags	3,200	1,258	3,200
Gasoline & Diesel Fuel, Hwy	45,000	33,939	40,000
Telephone & Internet Services	3,750	3,208	3,750
Heavy Equip Parts & Repairs	20,000	32,154	30,000
Special Equipment	15,000	25,054	25,000
Supplies, Small Tools & Oil	18,500	14,027	18,500
Misc. Expenses & Training	5,000	3,787	10,000
Contract Hire, Mowing & Rental	25,000	24,876	30,000
Utilities & Propane	5,000	4,625	5,000
Maintenance of Town Grounds	7,000	8,307	9,000
Highway Building Maintenance	3,000	2,512	3,000
Highway Block Grant Projects	41,407	-	42,512

Barbara Campbell went into more detail about the Highway Budget, explaining that the money budgeted for roads last year wasn't spent because contractors could not be secured for the work the Town had. There was further discussion about planned culvert work. Jerry Dougherty commented on the reduction of the Capital Reserve for the Highway. He wanted to make sure that the equipment schedule for purchases could handle being pushed back a year.

Barbara Campbell made a motion to accept the Highway Department section of the Budget, seconded by Bob Thompson. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	\$140,500	\$121,132	\$149,627
Transfer Station Wages, FICA & Medicare	52,000	50,668	58,091
Transfer Station Health Ins	9,500	10,808	12,536
Joint Operating Acct	10,000	-	10,000
Operating expenses	4,000	2,998	4,000
Hauling & Rental Fees	20,000	16,800	20,000
Tipping Fees	45,000	39,858	45,000

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the Transfer Station section of the Budget, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

Sarah Clemons asked about the Transfer Station Dump Store. Barbara Campbell provided feedback.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$500	\$500	\$500

Barbara Campbell made a motion to accept the Animal Control section of the Budget, seconded by Bob Thompson. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
PUBLIC WELFARE	\$6,000	\$-	\$6,000

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the Welfare section of the Budget, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
LIBRARY	\$122,469	\$112,864	\$146,200
Library Wages	83,134	77,668	87,702
Library Appropriations	14,000	19,250	23,066
Library Trustees Expenses	25,335	15,946	35,432

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the Library section of the Budget, seconded by Barbara Campbell. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
OTHER CONSERVATION	\$1,500	\$950	\$1,500
Jxn Conservation Comm	1,500	950	1,500

Frank DiFruscio made a motion to accept the Conservation Commission section of the Budget, seconded by Barbara Campbell. All approved.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
OTHER CULTURE & RECREATION	\$10,000	\$10,460	\$10,500
Filmed Meetings	5,000	5,460	5,500
Channel 3 - Valley Vision	5,000	5,000	5,000

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the Other Culture and Recreation section of the Budget, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

Barbara mentioned this section includes the filmed meetings and Valley Vision. Hank confirmed that people do watch the videos that he posts. Jerry Dougherty further commented on the valuable service that Hank provides. The videos provide needed transparency for small towns like this.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
PARKS & RECREATION	\$6,700	\$6,700	\$6,700
Bartlett Recreation Department	6,700	6,700	6,700

Barbara Campbell made a motion to accept the Parks and Recreation section of the Budget, seconded by Bob Thompson. All approved.

Barbara mentioned that this is for the Bartlett Rec. Program.

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual	Proposed
DEBT SERVICE	\$62,373	\$47,373	\$60,973
Bond Principal	35,000	35,000	35,000
Bond Interest	12,373	12,373	10,973
Interest (Valley Cross Road Bridge)	14,000	-	14,000
TAN Interest	1,000	-	1,000

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the Debt Service section of the Budget, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

That concludes the information on the proposed Operating Budget.

3. Review Proposed Warrant Articles

A petitioned article was submitted for the Weigh Station. It is concerned with the homeless living in the area. The request is for \$2,000 in order to provide food and other essentials.

Barbara Campbell made a motion to recommend the proposed amount of \$2,000, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

There was discussion on the recurring Capital Reserve Funds. There are some reductions in some of the line items in order to cover some non recurring costs like the fire station study and highway sand and salt cover.

2023	2023	2024
Budget	Actual	Proposed

RECURRING CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS	\$338,500	\$338,500	\$175,500
Fire Department Truck	80,000	80,000	
Road Reconstruction	95,000	95,000	95,000
Highway Truck	50,000	50,000	
Bartlett/Jackson Ambulance	50,000	50,000	50,000
Highway Heavy Equipment	30,000	30,000	
Police Cruiser	15,500	15,500	15,500
Revaluation of Town Property	3,000	3,000	-
Solar Energy	15,000	15,000	15,000

Frank DiFruscio made a motion to approve the proposed reduction for the Capital Reserve Funds, seconded by Bob Thompson. All approved.

There was discussion on the Recurring Expendable Trust Funds.

RECURRING EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS	\$63,750	\$63,750	\$182,000
Transfer Station	5,000	5,000	5,000
State Aid Reconstruction	5,000	5,000	5,000
Bridge Repair	15,000	15,000	90,000
Dry Hydrant	-	-	-
Police Department Equipment	3,000	3,000	3,000
Fire Department Equipment	20,000	20,000	20,000
Melloon Road Ground Water Maintenance	10,000	10,000	2,000
Town Office Equipment	5,750	5,750	7,000
Fire Department Maintenance	-	-	50,000

Barbara Campbell made a motion to accept the proposed budget for the Recurring Expendable Trust Funds, seconded by Bob Thompson. All approved.

The proposed number needs to be reviewed once the amount of contribution for the Fire Department Equipment has been verified.

The Social Services requested budget numbers were reviewed.

RECURRING SOCIAL SERVICES	\$23,782	\$23,782	\$25,791
Children Unlimited	4,000	4,000	4,000
Tri-County Community Action (Fuel)	2,313	2,313	2,313
Gibson Center	3,000	3,000	3,000
White Mountain Community Health	1,506	1,506	1,506
Conway Area Humane Society	2,000	2,000	2,000
Starting Point	4,247	4,247	4,256

Northern Human Services	716	716	716
Chamber of Commerce - Fireworks	3,000	3,000	4,000
Chamber- Beautification Project	1,000	1,000	2,000
MWV Supports Recovery	1,500	1,500	1,500
Eastern Slope Regional Airport	500	500	500

Bob Thompson made a motion to accept the proposed budget for the Social Services, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

New proposed Warrant Articles were reviewed.

NEW (2024)	\$-	\$-	\$600,000
Amendment - Zoning Ordinance	-	-	
Establish Housing Commission	-	-	
Housing Commission Fund or ETF	-	-	50,000
Library Maintenance & Repairs ETF	-	-	10,000
New Fire Station Design and Engineer Study	-	-	250,000
Roof for Highway Sand Enclosure	-	-	290,000

Zoning Ordinance change for Accessory Dwelling Units

Barbara Campbell made a motion to approve the proposed amendment for the zoning ordinance, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

Housing Commission

Bill Terry provided information on the Housing Commission and its goals. There was discussion on whether the funds could be used for the entire Mount Washington Valley, or if the funds were limited to Jackson. There were also questions on what the money could be used for. Jerry Dougherty felt that the proposed article was too vague, although he supports the idea. Emily Benson supports the proposed article and believes that there are possibilities for housing, and she feels this article is necessary. The discussion will continue at the next meeting to clarify the wording for establishing the Expendable Trust Fund.

Barbara Campbell made a motion to establish a Housing Commission, seconded by Frank DiFruscio. All approved.

Bob Thompson made a motion to table the Housing Commission Expendable Trust Fund until next Tuesday's meeting, seconded by Barbara Campbell. All approved.

Library Repairs and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

The Library would like to have money set aside for unexpected repairs and maintenance.

Barbara Campbell made a motion to approve establishing the Library Repairs and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund, seconded by Bob Thompson. All approved.

New Fire Station Design and Engineer Study

Bob Thompson gave background information on how the amount of \$250,000 was developed and what the study would entail. Jerry Dougherty suggested creating a Capital Reserve Fund for this article.

Bob Thompson made a motion to approve the Warrant Article for the new Fire Station Design and Engineering Study, seconded by Bob Thompson. All approved.

Roof for the Sand Enclosure

Gary Allen explained the issues and time constraints the crew faces each storm and how that would be eliminated by adding a roof to this structure. There was discussion on how this would be a benefit to employees and the Town.

Barbara Campbell made a motion to recommend the \$290,000 for the sand enclosure, seconded by Bob Thompson. All approved.

There is a petitioned article that will be discussed at the next meeting, along with other items that need to be revisited.

4. There was a motion to adjourn the Budget Hearing. All approved.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Erik Atwell

To view the full video recording of this meeting visit www.jacksonflicks.com