



## Budget Committee Meeting

October 17, 2024, 7:00 PM

### Open the Budget Committee Meeting and Roll Call

Chair Cutting opened the Budget Committee meeting at 7:00 PM

**Budget Committee Members Present:** Michael Cutting (Chair), Alfred Hanson, Harold Blanchette, Bill Hanson, Rick Bixby and Robert Blake.

**Absent:** Ray Martin

### Open the Selectboard Meeting and Roll Call

Selectboard Chair Harry Seidel opened the Selectboard meeting at 7:02 PM

**Select Board Members Present:** Harry Seidel, Faith Minton, Mike Smith

**Others Present:** Town Administrator Kathy Frenette, Selectboard Admin Asst Judy Newman-Rogers

### Budget Committee Approval of Minutes • October 10, 2024

No action taken.

Kathy Frenette informed the Budget Committee about the Employee Benefit Fair that was held recently. The Select Board advised the Budget Committee that they are investigating other plans for next year in an attempt to keep healthcare costs reasonable.

### **• CIP Presentation by Karen Coyne, Planning Board Chair**

Karen Coyne presented The 2025 – 2030 Capital Improvement Program.

**Select Board:** Town Hall window replacement \$15,000, community center window replacement and energy improvements \$15,000 and the reval capital reserve fund for \$52,000. The Select Board will investigate the possibility of a grant for the cost of window replacements.

**Town Clerk:** record preservation \$20,000

**Police Dept:** Police vehicles; \$25,000 for 2025, \$35,000 for 2026 \$40,000 for 2029

**Public Works:** Bridge Repair Replacement \$125,000, Highway Equipment \$200,000, Road Construction is \$0 -- currently repaying the 2.4 million dollar loan at \$300,000 per year.

**Transfer station:** Service Light Extension (vertical bailer), Pole Barn \$150,000 and Skid Steer replacement.

**Fire Department:** Some equipment replacements have been spread out over a few years. In 2025 Rescue II to be replaced. In 2027 Tanker I is scheduled to be replaced.

**Emergency Management:** requested a place holder in the amount of last year's request for a feasibility study on Kearsarge Mountain Road

1 The total CIP for 2025 is \$769,000. In 2024 the CIP requests totaled \$556,000 of which  
2 \$200,000 was funded by the operating budget, the balance of \$356,000 was funded by taxes.  
3 The difference from 2024 to 2025 is \$400,000 equates to 9% of the base operating budget.  
4

5 The Budget Committee reiterated their opinion that healthcare costs need to be scrutinized, and  
6 the possibility of employee contributions.  
7

8 **Capital Reserve balances as of August 31<sup>st</sup>**

9 Beginning Balance January 1, 2024, \$2,147,600

10 Deposits from January through August \$198,729 Interest earned \$66,477.

11

12 Withdrawals to date \$362,000 Remaining Balance \$2,050,000  
13

14 Alfred Hanson spoke more about healthcare costs; stressed the importance of hiring and  
15 maintaining employees; the possibility of looking at the operating costs and the CIP for ways to  
16 offset the healthcare costs in reducing the need for employee contributions towards healthcare.

17 Rick Bixby asked about wage increases. He questioned the possibility of town departments  
18 working together to establish an alternating equipment purchasing schedule.  
19

20 **Next meeting is November 7, 2024:** Presentation of 2025 Budget by Town Administrator

21 **November 14<sup>th</sup>:** Budget Review scheduled for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

22 **November 21<sup>st</sup>:** Transfer Station and Highway  
23

24 **Adjourn Budget Committee Meeting**

25 **Harold Blanchette made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to adjourn the meeting.**

26 **Motion passed unanimously. 8:40 pm adjourned.**  
27

28 **Adjourn Selectboard Meeting**

29 **Motion by Harry Seidel, seconded Michael Smith to adjourn the meeting, all in**  
30 **favor, 8:40 pm adjourned**  
31

32

33

34 Respectfully submitted by

35

36 Tracy Doherty

Edits by Judy Newman-Rogers