



## Budget Committee Meeting

December 12, 2024, 7:00 PM

### Open the Meeting and Roll Call

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

**Budget Committee Members Present:** Michael Cutting (Chair), Ray Martin, Rick Bixby, Bill Hanson, Alfred Hanson, Faith Minton Selectboard Rep.

**Absent:** Robert Blake and Harold Blanchette

### Selectboard Meeting

Harry Seidel opened the Select Board meeting at 7:00 PM

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

**Absent:** Michael Smith

**Others:** Kathy Frenette Town Administrator, Judy Newman-Rogers Selectboard Administrative Assistant and Clyde Carson Finance Director

### Approval of Minutes • None

Kathy Frenette informed the committee there is a correction to the Building Inspector budget. The mileage line item should be \$1,000 not \$100. Total budget is now \$26,490.

### Presentation of 2025 Budget

**a. Finance:** Clyde Carson, Finance Director presented the Finance department budget.

**Wages** – increased

**Computer hardware** – no change

**Software** \$7,660

There was a discussion regarding technical back up support for the finance department. MRI is the company that provides back up support.

**Membership/dues** \$75

**Auditor** \$25,000

**b. Town Clerk:** Michele Courser, Town Clerk presented the Town Clerk budget.

**Wages** – increase for Town Clerk

**Deputy Wages:** no change, 2024 amount is sufficient to cover

There was a discussion regarding adjustments that Select Board will be discussing at their next meeting (IT Managed care and auditor).

**Software support** \$4,572

**Supplies** increased to \$1,000

**Postage** decreased to \$1,250

**Mileage** \$50

1           **c. Tax Collector:**

2       Stating he had permission from the Tax Collector (not present at the meeting) to speak at the  
3       Budget Meeting, James Sherman, Deputy Tax Collector, spoke about the Tax Collector's budget:  
4       he spoke about the importance of the tax collector's position for the Town; he outlined the scope  
5       of work the Tax Collector is responsible for; stressed that the Tax Collector goes above and  
6       beyond to ensure taxes are collected; stressed that the Tax Collector does not receive health  
7       insurance benefits or retirement benefits; she is only paid \$30,000. Alfred Hanson questioned  
8       why this is the first time this has been brought up. Harry Seidel explained the Select Board's  
9       rationale for the Tax Collector's wages (stipend). Alfred Hanson questioned why the tax collector  
10      is being paid significantly less than the previous tax collector when the scope of work has not  
11      changed. Faith Minton outlined what surrounding communities pay and the population of those  
12      communities. Mike Cutting explained that the new software was to bring savings. Judy  
13      Newman-Rogers explained the previous tax collector had many years of experience and was  
14      very efficient. Mr. Sherman cautioned the Board that the Tax Collector's position is not a part  
15      time position. Mike Cutting suggested the Tax Collector and the Select Board should get  
16      together to discuss this matter.

17           **d. Assessing:** Elizabeth Labbe, Assessing Administrator, presented the assessing budget  
18      which has increased 92.8%.

19      **Wages** - \$37,012

20      **Outside services** - \$32,000 contract assessor (Mr. Seidel said last year it was funded from surplus)

21      **Forester** - \$600 increased by \$200

22      **Utility Legal** - \$8,000

23      **Tax Maps** - \$2,500

24      **Computer Software maintenance** - \$10,000

25           There was a discussion relating to the transition and associated costs for the current  
26      assessing software with the Avitar system.

27      **Supplies** - \$400

28      **Meetings/Seminars** \$400

29           **e. Parks & Recreation:** Apryl Blood and Erika Carr presented the parks and recreation  
30      budget

31      **Wages** – maintenance person from DPW \$17,825

32      **Seasonal wages** –\$4,500

33      **Equipment repairs/purchase** \$700

34      **Sanitation** – slight increase \$4,980

35      **Maintenance/improvements** decreased to \$7,350

36           **f. Library:** Michael Brown, Library Trustee/Treasurer presented the library budget.

37      The Library receives 1/15 of 1% of the town's valuation; the amount received from the town  
38      (\$223,804) does not change until the next revaluation; he stressed that the Library's expenses do  
39      not remain the same; in the future that amount will not be sufficient; \$223,804 covers personnel  
40      and other operating expenses are funded by donations/fundraising; they will be increasing their  
41      fundraising efforts.

1 **Next meeting dates:** December 16, 2024 to review: Total Town budget  
2 December 26, 2024 to review: Capital Budget  
3  
4

5 **Adjournment**

6 **Faith Minton made a motion seconded by Harry Seidel to adjourn the Select Board**  
7 **meeting. Motion passed.**

8 Adjourned Selectboard Meeting at 8:44 pm  
9

10 **Ray Martin made a motion seconded by Rick Bixby to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.**

11  
12 The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM  
13

14 Respectfully submitted by Tracy Doherty

15 Edits by Judy Newman-Rogers Selectboard Administrative Assistant  
16

APPROVED 12/19/24