

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES TOWN OF TROY

Monday, November 2, 2020 6:00 pm

Members Present: Ben Drugg, Adam Hopkins

Members Absent: Lisa Stearns, Richard HKS Thackston

Select Board Present: Dick Thackston

Also present Mary Guild-Town Administrator

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm

Minutes tabled for 9.8.20 meeting.

B. Drugg: Motion to approve 10.26.20 meeting, D. Thackston seconded. Vote: 3-0-0 **MOTION PASSES**

New Business

Water/Sewer

Presented by Rhonda Sheets- Office Manager and Justin Frazier- Water Superintendent

Very close to level funded entire budget.

504-BMSI line; B. Drugg asked about BMSI fees paid through multiple departments, is there a reason it isn't one fee or can we get the overall costs lowered? R. Sheets to follow up with BMSI contact.

300- Sewer Bond; B. Drugg asked about having water/sewer customers pay more of the bond through water rate increases or increased quarterly bond payments to take the burden off taxpayers who do not live in the water district. Why are residents who cannot access the water/sewer being made to pay for the department? R. Sheets/J. Frazier to bring suggestion back to Water Commissioners who set the rates. Current Water Commissioners are: Bert Lang, Kris Lepisto, Carl Patten, Mark Huntoon, and Bucky Sheets.

J. Frazier reports that Troy water rates are considerably lower than other towns, R. Sheets said Commissioners hear that Troy has high taxes and try to keep the fees down. D. Thackston pays water bills in several other local municipalities and agrees that Troy water rates are considerably lower. J. Frazier spoke on the plan to add an Asset Management Plan to the department to help in getting grants and tracking department equipment needs.

B. Drugg asked for information on department payroll, comparing Troy Water to Marlboro Water, asked why we are seemingly overstaffed in comparison to Marlboro's staffing/customer count. J. Frazier pointed out there are administrative burdens in Marlboro that are handled outside the water department, so their budget is artificially low. In general staffing terms he mentioned increased regulations on testing/sampling, increased maintenance requirements, as well as safety rules that require 2 employees to do certain tasks as reasons behind an increase in staffing levels at the water department.

108- Pager Compensation; A. Hopkins asked what this line is for. R. Sheets explained it is actually an on-call payroll line that should be renamed since they do not use pagers anymore. J. Frazier believes this rate is too low, and explained the rate is \$50/week whereas other municipalities give \$35/day to be on call.

B. Drugg: Motion to tentatively approve \$420,520 Water/Sewer budget, A. Hopkins seconded. 3-0-0 **MOTION PASSES**

Gay-Kimball Library (4550 accounts)
Presented by Catherine Callegari- Librarian

C. Callegari walked the Budget Committee through a year in review to explain how the library has handled COVID-19 and still served the townspeople and school, it is basically a level funded request with insurances and state retirement going up.

C. Callegari explained a proposed Warrant Article to add \$1,000 to the Gay-Kimball Library Expendable Trust and mentioned that the library's electric bill has gone down since installing LED lighting and they will pay for themselves based on that savings.

B. Drugg: Motion to tentatively approve \$101,335 Library budget, D. Thackston seconded. 3-0-0 **MOTION PASSES**

Select Board Update

D. Thackston and M. Guild explained that the Town Hall renovation projects are going to be over budget because of the unexpected number of electrical repairs needed. Several rooms in the town hall are all on the same circuit which is causing issues when 2 printers run at the same time in separate departments. Going forward a completion date clause will be added to contracts for work completed for the town. M. Guild to check rules governing overspending for the renovation project warrant article and any requirements needed to complete the bookkeeping appropriately across budget years and if a budget committee authorization or public hearing may be needed.

B. Drugg asked about pending warrant articles the Select Board knows about, M. Guild responded there has been discussion on an ambulance warrant article with the ambulance department having 2 units brought out to be looked at recently. B. Drugg asked if the Select Board has authorized the Ambulance Department overspending its budget as they are currently spending other departments budget by running over. D. Thackston said the Select Board has not had such a vote and will bring that back to the board. Discussion was had on Troy Ambulance covering Fitzwilliam, which is leading to the overspend in Troy payroll, M. Guild has a call in to DiLuzio Ambulance for a quote for services. A direct answer to whether Troy is required to cover other towns on ambulance calls due to Mutual Aid agreements is needed.

Public Comments

Resident Matt Meacham brought up that the Troy Ambulance Department has said Fitzwilliam Ambulance covered Troy in the past which is why they are covering Fitzwilliam now.

B. Drugg Motion to adjourn at 7:27pm, Seconded by D. Thackston. Vote: 3-0-0 **MOTION PASSES**

Next meeting Monday 11/9 6PM at Gay-Kimball Library, budgets expected:

- Police Department
- Police Revenue Offset
- Animal Control
- Emergency Services Building
- Emergency Management

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Hopkins, Budget Committee Vice-Chair