

**TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
BUDGET COMMITTEE
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BUDGET COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, November 15, 2016
4:00 p.m. - Town Office**

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Carla Lootens, Vice-Chairman Steve Brinser, Members Helen Hartshorn, John Libby, Tyler Phillips, Bob Theve, Selectmen's Representative Carolyn Sundquist, and Karen Koch.

OPEN MEETING: After declaring a quorum, Chairman Lootens opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS: Chairman Lootens shared that Steve Wingate will be the first to meet as he needs to leave by 4:30 pm. She also shared that if you abstain from a vote it's a non-vote per the Robert's Rules of Order. Vice-Chairman Brinser asked for a point of clarification, asking if this information is supplied by the Robert's Rules of Order, will the Budget Committee now apply these rules universally. Chairman Lootens responded that this would not be the case. While doing research and reviewing case law she found nothing to say that abstaining from a vote could be counted as anything other than a non-vote.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Lootens called for review and approval of the November 1, 2016 minutes. In response to Tyler Phillips, Chairman Lootens explained that the salary comparison website referenced in the November 1, 2016 minutes is through the NH Municipal Association and noted that NHMA will be presenting this information at their annual conference.

Motion: Helen Hartshorn moved to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brinser. Vote passed 6-0.

John Libby joined the meeting at 4:05 pm.

BUDGET REVIEWS APPOINTMENTS:

4612 Conservation

Steve Wingate met with the Budget Committee to review this budget. There was discussion regarding the Administrative Assistant line including the expected hiring of Rick Van de Pool, Acquisitions and Monitoring and 19 Mile Brook encumbered funds. Helen Hartshorn shared that overall the budget request is only up 1% over the 2016 budget. Mr. Wingate also explained the Conservation Commission's Watershed Plan CIP request for \$15,000.

Motion: Tyler Phillips moved to approve budget 4612 Conservation for \$18,098, seconded by Helen Hartshorn. Vote passed 7-0.

4195 Cemetery

The Cemetery Trustees met with the Budget Committee to review this budget. Sue Weeks explained that the cemetery regulations have been rewritten and a complete review of cemetery maintenance has been done. There was discussion about cemetery maintenance, cemetery abandonment and the role of the Sexton.

Motion: Vice-Chairman Brinser moved to approve budget 4195 Cemetery for \$19,800, seconded by Bob Theve. Vote passed 7-0.

4220 Fire Department

Chief Thompson met with the Budget Committee to review this budget. Helen Hartshorn shared that the budget is up 5% since last year and 60.3% since 2011. In response to Tyler Phillips, Selectmen's Representative Sundquist explained that the Selectmen's request was more than the Department head's request as Chief Thompson wanted to withhold from giving himself a raise but the Selectmen did not agree and felt that he should receive a raise. There was discussion regarding salary lines, vehicle maintenance, new equipment, on call coverage, shift coverage, the effect of the Thornton Study on this budget, etc.

Motion: Bob Theve moved to approve budget 4220 Fire Department for \$433,001, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brinser. Vote passed 7-0.

4290 Emergency Management

Chief Thompson met with the Budget Committee to review this budget. This budget is flat to last year. There was discussion as to whether or not this budget should be included with the Fire Department budget. Chief Thompson explained the Forest Fire Expense, Grants, and Stipend lines. Chief Thompson also explained the expected expenditures for this budget for the remainder of this year.

Motion: Vice-Chairman Brinser moved to approve budget 4290 Emergency Management for \$12,680, seconded by Helen Hartshorn. Vote passed 7-0.

4215 Ambulance

Chief Thompson met with the Budget Committee to review this budget. There was discussion regarding an ambulance analysis done by Bob McWhirter and Mark Howard. In response to Chairman Lootens, Selectmen's Representative Sundquist shared that the Town's current ambulance contract will be honored as we are happy with the service we are receiving. There was discussion regarding the variables between Tuftonboro's contract terms compared to other towns included in the analysis. There was also discussion about billing for the town ambulance.

Motion: Vice-Chairman Brinser made a motion to table budget 4215 Ambulance, seconded by Bob Theve. Vote did not pass 2-5. John Libby and Vice-Chairman Brinser in favor. Helen Hartshorn, Selectmen's Representative Sundquist, Chairman Lootens, Bob Theve and Tyler Phillips opposed.

Motion: Bob Theve moved to approve budget 4215 Ambulance for \$185,074, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brinser. Vote passed 6-1. Vice-Chairman Brinser opposed.

Chief Thompson will work with the Selectmen in regards to the negotiation of a new ambulance contract in the future. Chief Thompson also shared responses that were given to questions asked by Paul Zimmerman in regards to the ambulance.

CORRESPONDENCE: An earlier discussion regarding COLA was revisited. John Libby presented information in terms of using an indicator to determine COLA. Selectmen's Representative Sundquist shared that the Selectmen discussed that it would be best if the same resource was looked at each year in terms of COLA to maintain consistency.

There was discussion regarding transfers from budget 4711. In response to Vice-Chairman Brinser, Selectmen's Representative Sundquist shared that the auditor pointed out last year that there was money left over from the fire station loan. This was used for this year's payment. As the payment was already made, this year's allocation is being used for other expenses.

4150 Financial Administration

The Budget Committee reviewed budget 4150 Financial Administration. There was a discussion regarding the Appreciation Event line. In response to Tyler Phillips, Selectmen's Representative Sundquist shared that the Tax Collector and Town Clerk follow the Thornton salary recommendations. Mr. Phillips suggested that each salary budget line that has an increase include an explanation of the change in the notes.

Motion: Tyler Phillips moved to approve budget 4150 Financial Administration for \$126,084, seconded by Chairman Lootens. Vote passed 7-0.

4152 Revaluation of Property

The Budget Committee reviewed budget 4152 Revaluation of Property. Selectmen's Representative Sundquist shared that this line increased because when the Town hired the assessor, it was agreed to spread the revaluation cost over the term of the contract.

Motion: Helen Hartshorn moved to approve budget 4152 Revaluation of Property for \$45,664, seconded by Tyler Phillips. Vote passed 7-0.

4153 Legal Expenses

The Budget Committee reviewed budget 4153 Legal Expenses. Selectmen's Representative Sundquist shared that the utility lawsuit is still ongoing and the expense is shared by other towns.

Motion: Bob Theve moved to approve budget 4153 Legal Expenses for \$42,800, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brinser. Vote passed 7-0.

4414 Animal Control

The Budget Committee reviewed budget 4414 Animal Control.

Motion: Tyler Phillips moved to approve budget 4414 Animal Control for \$2,000, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brinser. Vote passed 7-0.

4415 Health Agencies

The Budget Committee reviewed budget 4415 Health Agencies. It was noted that all but three organizations shared the benefits that they provide to the Town of Tuftonboro. There was lengthy discussion regarding whether or not this budget line meets the RSA requirement that towns provide funding for welfare.

Motion: Tyler Phillips moved to table budget 4415 Health Agencies, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brinser. Vote did not pass 2-5. Tyler Phillips and Vice-Chairman Brinser in favor. Helen Hartshorn, Selectmen's Representative Sundquist, Chairman Lootens, Bob Theve and John Libby opposed.

Motion: Helen Hartshorn moved to approve budget 4415 Health Agencies for \$37,289, seconded by Bob Theve. Vote passed 4-3. Chairman Lootens, Selectmen's Representative Sundquist, Helen Hartshorn and Bob Theve in favor. Tyler Phillips, Vice-Chairman Brinser, and John Libby opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

In response to recent comments in the newspaper and online, Chairman Lootens gave a point of clarification that the reason why she brought up, in a past meeting, the number of lakefront and island properties that are out of state is because she was linking it to measuring median income of all taxpayers, not just residents. Bob Theve shared that he also had recent comments that were taken out of context in the media.

NEW BUSINESS:

CIP REPORT:

Helen Hartshorn shared that Steve Wingate came to meet with CIP at their last meeting on October 19, 2016. CIP's next meeting is November 30, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Town Offices. CIP will give a presentation to the Budget Committee, Selectmen and Planning Board December 6, 2016 at the Town House at 6:30 pm.

BOS UPDATE:

Selectmen's Representative Sundquist shared that all of the operating budgets should be available for the next Budget Committee meeting.

MEETING DATES

The next Budget Committee meetings will be December 6, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Town House and January 2, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Town Office.

PUBLIC INPUT

Max Ledoux thanked the Budget Committee for their service. He shared his opinion that everything that is done in a public meeting is public business and suggested that if members of the board felt that they were taken out of context then they should write a letter in the paper or go to the online blog. After some back and forth discussion between Bob Theve and Max Ledoux, Chairman Lootens closed public input. Chairman Lootens shared her resentment of the integrity of this committee being in jeopardy, people trying to pit board members against each other, members being misquoted and information being taken out of context. She added that the board was elected by the people of Tufonboro and the board is responsible for what we say and do for everyone in Tufonboro.

Public input was reopened. Guy Pike pointed out that that a “no” vote was not taken on some motions. These motions were reviewed and remedied.

Motion: On a motion made by Tyler Phillips, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brinser. Vote passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by: Karen Koch