

Town of Tuftonboro
Budget Committee Meeting
December 5, 2023

Present: Rob Roriston, David Dauphinais, Brendan Gaughran, Chris Sawyer, and Selectman Albee, also present were Selectman Murray, Selectman Pike and Town Administrator Fraizer

Excused: Gary Chehames and Jeff Reisner

Chairman Roriston called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

It was determined there was a quorum followed by the pledge of allegiance.

There was no public input.

Approvals: David Dauphinais made a motion to accept the minutes of November 14, 2023. The motion was seconded by Brandon Gaughran. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Roriston Comments

Budget Items for Approval

Chairman Roriston called for a vote on each of the following budgets:

4140 Town Clerk/Elections and Registration in the amount of \$105,522. Chris Sawyer made a motion to approved, the motion was seconded by Brandon Gaughran. The motion passed unanimously.

4130 Executive in the amount of \$155,263. David Dauphinais made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by Brandon Gaughran. The motion passed unanimously.

4152 Assessing in the amount of \$42,420. Chris Sawyer made a motion to approved, the motion was seconded by Brandon Gaughran. The motion passed unanimously.

4240 Building Inspection in the amount of \$80,639. Chris Sawyer made a motion to approved, the motion was seconded by Brandon Gaughran. The motion passed unanimously.

4520 Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$74,972.30. Brandon Gaughran made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by Chris Sawyer. The motion passed unanimously.

4215 Ambulance in the amount of \$216,858.49. Brandon Gaughran made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by Chris Sawyer. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Roriston tabled the approval of the **4550 Library** and **4220 Fire Department** budgets until the next meeting on December 19th.

Review of Budget Items

4191 Planning: Susan Burnside reviewed the Planning Boards 2024 Budget Request. There was little discussion.

4191 Zoning Board of Adjustment: There was no discussion.

4195 Cemeteries: Sue Weeks presented the Cemeteries budget. The Old Cemeteries – Restoration line item 2023 budget was up significantly from 2022 but not spent. Ms. Weeks explained

that the significant work is for tree trimming and removal. There was a high demand for such work and a contractor was not available in 2023. Chairman Roriston asked if there is a schedule for the work. Ms. Weeks said there was a list. There was an increase in the Cemetery Improvements line, Ms. Weeks explained this was for repairs to the fencing in the Piper Cemetery adjacent to the municipal offices.

4619.1 Other Conservation; Agricultural Commission: Sue Weeks said the agricultural commission was asking for \$2,000 in 2024 to cover community garden expenses; hoses, nozzles, and repairs to the fence. In 2023 they had mowed the field beyond the community garden.

4711 Debt Service: Chairman Roriston asked how many years are left on the note for the Fire Station. Four years, 2027 is the last payment.

4723 Long Term Interest: The interest associated with the 4711 Debt for the Fire Station.

Board of Selectman's (BoS) Update

Selectman Albee brought the Budget Committee up to date on the Warrant Articles the Board of Selectmen are considering for 2024. They include a match for work on Valley Road, a property purchase, Town road paving, and a solar installation. The Town averages \$1.2 M annually for warrant articles.

There was a discussion about the Fire Department and the need for careful consideration on the question asked by Chief Thompson at the previous meeting, "What level of service does the Town want?" Does the Town need four engines?

At 7:30 p.m. David Dauphinais made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Chris Sawyer. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Fraizer