



TOWN OF BOW

Budget Committee

10 Grandview Road, Bow, New Hampshire 03304

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Bow Budget Committee Minutes - Town Budget Approved Minutes January 6, 2022

Mark Zerba, Chair	P	Kathy Garfield	P
Jennifer Strong-Rain, Vice Chair (School Board Rep.)	P	Jeffrey Knight	P
Ben Kiniry, Secretary	P	Robert Blanchette	P
Andrew Mattiace	P	Bruce Marshall (Selectman Rep.)	P
Michael Wayne (Selectman Alt.)	P	Martin Osterloh (School Board Alt.)	A
Town Manager David Stack	P	Finance Director Geoff Ruggles	P

* P = Present; A = Absent

I. Call to Order

Chairman Zerba called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

II. Approval Minutes

a. February 1, 2021 Minutes

Mark Zerba noted that under Section IV. Other Business – Bow Youth Center Purchase Proposal, the amount of the second payment on the Bow Youth Center should be \$500,000 and the committee agreed. Jennifer Rain-Strong moved to approve the minutes of February 1, 2021 as amended. The motion was seconded by Ben Kiniry. The motion carried unanimously.

b. February 8, 2021 Public Hearing Minutes

Jennifer Rain-Strong moved to approve the minutes of February 8, 2021 as amended. The motion was seconded by Ben Kiniry. The motion carried unanimously.

c. February 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mark Zerba noted that the date of the minutes should be February 8, 2021, not February 10, 2020. Jennifer Rain-Strong moved to approve the minutes of February 8, 2021 as amended. The motion was seconded by Ben Kiniry. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Review of the Town Budget

Board of Selectman Chair Chris Nicolopoulos presented and overview of the FY2022-23 Town Budget. He explained that the budget came to the Board was tight. The Board cut about \$100,000 out of the budget including \$15,000 for carpet that there was other funding for; \$14,000 for fire truck pump repairs that would be done in this year's budget; diesel, salt, and \$15,000 in police overtime anticipated with full staffing. Mark Zerba noted that the increase appeared to be due primarily to wages to which Chris Nicolopoulos agreed saying the there was a 4% COLA (cost of living adjustment) built into this budget.

Ben Kiniry asked if the town kept track of COLA increases compared to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase. Finance Director Geoff Ruggles stated that it wasn't being tracked but that information could be compiled for the committee.

Ben Kiniry asked how the budget remained low given the litigation payments and purchasing the Youth Center. Chris Nicolopoulos replied that the town had a good team of employees plus things like the revenue generated by the Youth Center covering the overhead cost of the Recreation Department, lower legal costs. He added that there were not any big decrease in the budget and that revenues continue to increase to offset some of the expenses.

Various areas of the budget were discussed such as:

- postage, which was based on actual use and postal increases
- copier maintenance which was due to aging equipment
- assessing costs which is due to the cyclical update
- an increased number of elections next year
- lawn equipment for the Recreation Center
- use and cost of playground fiber
- removing additional funding for construction of the maintenance shed at Hanson Park
- Library budget increase, mainly wage and benefit based
- the significant increase in salt and pre-purchasing salt if feasible
- Selectmen removed the purchase of a new K-9 dog
- lease purchase of police body cameras still being reviewed
- details of Safety Building security system upgrade and electricity costs
- costs Town Hall renovations and relocation of Community Development department
- Town insurances increase due higher valuations and unfavorable loss ratio
- current fuel costs
- reduction in road reconstruction appropriation is acceptable to the Public Works Director
- increase Motor Vehicle Registrations to \$2,550,000, Impact Fees to \$20,000, and Building Permits to \$85,000.

IV. Other Business

V. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion:

Ben Kiniry moved to adjourn, seconded by Jennifer Strong-Rain. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Ruggles