

MINUTES

Sanbornton Budget Committee

Meeting Date and Time: Monday, January 15th, 2018 at 7:00 PM

Meeting Place: Town Offices, 573 Sanborn Road, Sanbornton, N.H.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ralph Rathjen at 6:30 PM.

Present: Justin Barriault, Chair Ralph Rathjen, Selectman Karen Ober, Earl Leighton

Approval of draft BC minutes from 1/8 – Earl Leighton made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 1/8 with corrections. Justin Barriault seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Review of FY19 Department Budgets

Chair Ralph Rathjen explained that he has compiled all department budgets and would like to review those that have and have not been voted on. Each budget he has compiled also notes the increase or decrease over prior year.

Financial Administration 4150 – Chair Rathjen stated that the correct total for this budget is \$73,114, not \$73,814. Selectman Ober stated that the printing of the annual town report went down from \$2,500 to \$1,800 which is why the figure is different. Earl Leighton made a motion to accept the BOS recommended budget of \$73,114. Justin Barriault seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Assessing 4152 – Chair Rathjen asked about the differences in the FY19 Assessing budget compared with the budget in prior years. Selectman Ober stated that the subcontracted assessing service is needed to complete the work that the former Municipal Assessor was doing. The Assessing Assistant salary is in this budget and the Municipal Assessor salary was in another budget. Chair Rathjen noted that the large revaluation of property done every five years, due in FY19, should be showing five years ago in the FY14 history and is not.

Insurance 4196 – Chair Rathjen made a motion to accept the BOS recommended budget of \$53,000. Earl Leighton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Police 4210 – Chair Rathjen explained that the budget for FY18 includes an amount for Officer 3 which will be part of a proposed warrant article at Town Meeting this year. Because of this the budget shows a -2% growth of the Police budget. If the warrant article passes the Police budget will increase by 16%.

Fire 4220 – Chair Rathjen stated that the Fire Chief salary shown in the budget is an actual figure rather than a budgeted figure. Fire Chief Paul Dexter stated that the figure is noted in asterisks at the bottom of the spreadsheet as being an approved dollar amount by the BOS.

Highway Department 4312 – The Medicare and FICA lines of this budget need to be adjusted based on the \$1 line item for a 6th Highway employee, and Chair Rathjen will communicate this to Town Administrator Katie Ambrose. The new budget total will need to be voted on at the next Budget Committee meeting.

Transfer Station 4324 – Chair Rathjen stated that the Budget Committee has discussed an increase in bag fees for the Transfer Station, from \$1.25 to \$2, which would total \$50,000 in

revenue. Earl Leighton noted that an increase of 25% for all Transfer Station fees would make the department self-sustaining, rather than relying on taxation. Earl Leighton made a motion to accept the BOS recommended budget of \$172,997 and to recommend a 25% increase in all Transfer Station fees. Justin Barriault seconded the motion and the motion passed, with Selectman Karen Ober voting No.

Total Sanitation – Chair Rathjen made a motion to accept the BOS recommended budget of \$239,198. Justin Barriault seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Health and Community Organizations 4415 – Chair Rathjen made a motion to accept the BOS recommended budget of \$9,750. Earl Leighton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Vendor Payments/General Assistance 4441-4445 – Selectman Ober noted that the extreme cold has led to more assistance needed by residents than in prior years.

Debt Service 4711/4721/4723 – Chair Rathjen stated that he would like to see history on the budget spreadsheet of the Y Project. Chair Rathjen made a motion to accept the BOS recommended budget of \$187,459. Justin Barriault seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Rathjen noted that, though these are preliminary figures, the total BOS recommended budget has increased 1.6% over prior year, and the BC budget has increased by .3%. The additional Police Officer would increase both the BOS/BC budget by another 2%.

The Committee discussed the scheduled meeting with the BOS for tomorrow night, Tuesday, January 16th at 5:30. Because many members are unavailable the meeting will be rescheduled, possibly to the regular BOS meeting on January 24th depending on their agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Audry Barriault, Budget Committee Secretary