

MINUTES
Selectboard Budget Work Session
Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Jessica James, Jim Benoit, Chris Campbell, Clark Hinsdale, and Michael "Red" Muir.

Town Employees present: Deb Healey

6:01 pm – Jessica James opened the meeting.

Set dates for the budget meetings. Deb Healey suggested we meet before the regular meeting on the days that we already have regular selectboard meetings. Those dates are: November 3, November 17, December 1, and December 15. Jessica proposed the next regular selectboard meeting on November 2, as it is on the regular meeting agenda. Discussion on who the selectboard would like to meet with. Deb stated that the selectboard has already met with our health insurance agent, and it is on the October 20th agenda. Deb will email the following: Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department, Vergennes Fire Department, Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, John Bull and the office staff. Deb will ask if they have availability on the dates after 5:00pm and the selectboard will have a break in between meetings. Clark stated he would prefer if any of the invited people could provide materials prior to the meeting for our review. Red stated that if they are level funding, we could forgo the meeting. Chris stated he would like to receive the materials even if they are level funding. Deb stated that she is prepared to give the Budget spreadsheet, with our recommended level funding figures and an increase of 2-3%. Deb stated we have a budget savings from PACIF, our property insurer, in the amount of \$4,000, we will be able to budget \$4,000 less due to property insurance changes. Jim stated that we should continue the discussion of insurance coverage of our highway vehicles and replacement value insurance costs. Deb stated that we also are going to be budgeting some additional income from a Green MP Microgrid Ferrisburgh LLC, and recently received a check in the amount of \$28,000, and we should see some similar additional funds going forward. Deb stated that the solar array on the town hall parcel is cutting the town garage electricity bills and reducing the town hall's substantially. Jim stated that we were going to look into the large figure for telephone bills. Deb shared that we got the bill reduced \$120 a month when she looked into it, and we are in year 2 of 3 of paying for the equipment costs, however we can look into a more local and more responsive company until the term is up. Deb sent out the health insurance plan information and the Blue Cross savings. Clark raised the planning and zoning budget, and the fees collected and should we have that as an item to look at with Bonnie and Deb or Bonnie confers with Deb to share. Discussion ensued on the last time they were changed and if they are comparable, not being a big part of our budget, dog license fees could be raised as well. Deb will run the current figures and share with the board.

Motion to adjourn by Chris Campbell and seconded by Jim Benoit and seconded by Red Muir. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 6:23pm.

Respectfully submitted

Jessica James, Chair