

MINUTES
Selectboard Budget Work Session
Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

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

Town Employees present: Deb Healey, Treasurer, Laurie Curler, Ass't. Town Clerk and Pam Cousino, Town Clerk

Visitors present: Brian Goodyear, Carol Allen

1. Open Meeting

5:05 pm – Jessica James opened the meeting.

2. Discussions with

a) Pam Cousino, Laurie Curler and Deb Healey

Pam presented the town office budget for 2021/2022. The supplies, postage, vital records and office equipment line items were within budget in 2019/2020 and will be lowered a total of \$1,900 from the current 20/21 year. The Office/leased equipment/copies budget went over budget from \$4,770 to \$10,005. This was due to a \$5000 increase in the NEMRC (New England Municipal Resource Center) software maintenance fees. They had not had increases for many years and then were forced to make many changes to the software to correct security issues. There was also an unplanned expense due to COVID-19 with the need to pay for Zoom for town meetings. The 20/21 budget is in at \$,8500 and that line item will increase to \$10,991 for 21/22.

The office/IT/software budget was overbudget as well. It was in at \$5,270 and the actual amount spent was \$9,577. \$2000 of that was a one-time fee to get all the computers transferred to Windows 10. We also had a new firewall and backup system installed and we now need to pay a yearly software fee for each of those, which was not known when the 19/20 budget was set. The current 20/21 budget is set at \$,6400 and the new budget amount is suggested to be \$7,500.

Then the town office building maintenance budget item was discussed. The 19/20 budget was set at \$12,800 and the actual amount spent was \$9,681, a \$3,119 decrease. The was mostly due to not needing service on the LULA (lift) and the windows for the town hall were not cleaned. They will be cleaned next July or August. Since the new budget for 21/22 will include window cleaning, the requested budget amount is \$12,898.

b) Brian Goodyear – Vergennes Area Rescue Squad

Brian Goodyear spoke for the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad (VARs) budget request. Currently they are getting \$8.00 per person per year. Due to COVID-19 they are not able to get new members because no training is available. Costs have also increased. They have also lost about 6-8 people due to the pandemic. About 150 calls per year are for the town of Ferrisburgh. Each of the 5 towns pay the same per capita amount. Brian mentions that the per capita approach is standard throughout the state. Percentage of the

call is about 21%. He currently believes they may be requesting \$10.00 per person but it could be \$9.00 or 11.00.

3. Continue Budget discussion

A few minutes of further budget discussion ensued with no decisions made.

4. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Chris Campbell and seconded by Red Muir. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Pam Cousino, Town Clerk