

Ferrisburgh Selectboard
Budget Work Session Minutes
Tuesday December 12, 2023 - 5:30 p.m.
This meeting was held in person.

Selectboard in attendance: Jim Benoit, Clark Hinsdale, Chris Campbell, Michael Muir, Walter Reed arrived during the meeting

Town officials present: John Bull, Pam Cousino, Laurie Curler, Brian Goodyear

Guests present: Justin Soter, Abigail Goodyear

1. Open Meeting

Chris Campbell, Vice- Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

2. Brian Goodyear - VARS

Justin Soter and Brian Goodyear presented a nice slide show presentation regarding where they have been and the steps that they are taking to move forward. Towns are currently at \$8.00 per capita and they will need to go to \$15.00. Pam Cousino mentioned that our current budget is at \$10.00. The board thanked Brian and Justin for their presentation.

3. Meet with John Bull/Highway Budget

John Bull presented his budget for the 24/25 budget year. There is a 10% increase in the highway budget, mostly due to the cost of paving. With our 50 miles of paved roads we need to keep up with the paving or it will cost more. There are still a lot of trees that we need to remove so that line item is being increased from \$4,500 to \$7000. Looking to replace a truck, with a trade-in of \$43,000 looking at a cost of \$225,000. This will be voted on at town meeting.

The notes on the loader and the Ford 550 truck were retired this year. We need to replace our John Deere Z turn mower this year. Looking at purchasing a Hustler.

4. Meet with Pam Cousino & Laurie Curler for Town Office Budget

Pam mentioned a few of the changes with the town office budget. The Listers web hosting of land record cards, cost tables with Marshal and Swift and the CAMA data recovery charges are now listed as a separate line item. This will make it easier to track, being separated out from the town clerk office/leased equipment/support line item. There are minor increases to the other office staff line items. The web site is going from \$660 to \$3,440, which was approved earlier this year.

5. Personnel Review*

No reviews were done at this time. They will be done in May. There was some discussion regarding the wages contingency line item which is currently set at 3%. Jim Benoit said he was fine with that.

6. Personnel Review Wages – Executive Session – Reviewing salaries with employees 1 V.S.A. § 313(s)(1a)

No executive session since there was no discussion regarding specific employee's wages.

7. Other issues

No other issues discussed.

8. Review budget worksheet

The budget worksheet was reviewed and no changes were made. The next review will be on January 2nd, before the regular selectboard meeting.

9. Adjourn

Jim Benoit made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 pm, seconded by Michael Muir, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cousino