

**Town of Hinsdale  
Budget Committee Meeting  
Thursday, December 8, 2022**

**Attendees:** Dennis Nadeau, Kenny Howe, Bill Nebelski, Josh Green, Karen Johnson, Steve Diorio, April Anderson, Janice Nichols and Alex Duso

**Excused:** James MacDonell and Michael Bomba

6:06 p.m. Chairman Nadeau called the meeting to order.

Meeting opened with a brief discussion regarding the tax rate. Steve Diorio confirms tax rate is 27.98, down from last year's \$32.65. After appraisals, rate went up 25%

**Review Budgets**

**Executive – General Government**

Discussion took place regarding health insurance costs going up, considering a new bottom line as Jill will be exiting her position and a new person will be coming on board, new HR person taking over some work that Town Administrator did, in turn changing the numbers on the Town Administrator Budget and job responsibilities and wages for new staff person hired.

Steve reports that the Town anticipates hiring a Finance Officer and position is currently being advertised as a full-time position.

**Elections, Registration and Vital Stats**

Discussion regarding health insurance costs going up and what town employees pay towards their insurance and the price of health insurance overall, e.g., family plan is \$34,000 a year, Water Dept. 2-person plan is \$51,000 and rise in postage costs.

**Finance**

A discussion took place regarding town employees joining school staff insurance or Hinsdale Town Government join Winchester or Chesterfield insurance plan to help with costs.

Denny reports that 25% of money town pays for municipal workers goes towards State employees' health insurance.

**Town Treasurer** is Alan Zavorotny – no discussion

**Re-evaluation of Property** – no discussion

**Legal Expenses** – Steve Diorio reports went over budget last year because attorney was used for personnel issues. Kenny Howe reports Zoning Board needed to use Town Attorney as well.

**Human Resources** - The budget numbers could change.

**Planning and Zoning (4191)** - Karen is curious why they don't budget for telephone.

### **Government Buildings**

There was a brief discussion regarding the old Historical Society building. The building is not used and has not been used for years. There was a suggestion to look into selling it instead of using \$8,000 budgeted for a new furnace and upkeep. Budget Committee could make a recommendation to cut the budget. Steve reports that Jill is the authority on the building. Budget Committee will raise this question when they meet with Selectmen and Department Heads.

**Cemetery and Parks** – everyone is happy with this budget. \$23,620 total – wages were missing

**Police Department** - Increase of \$170,000. A short discussion took place regarding department being down one person, dispatcher and part-time and full-time detective and Animal Control gone.

**Ambulance** - Short discussion regarding price of ambulance.

**Fire Department** – Discussion regarding medical supplies budgeting \$7,000 and only spent \$1,500 – why budgeting so much, replacement of radios and concerns about heating costs.

**Public Safety/Building Inspector** – A suggestion to hire assistant to help Rodney.

**Emergency Management** - Natural disaster management. Since Vermont Yankee has shut down, there isn't much of a need. Not a full-time position.

**Highway** - Discussion regarding salary and raises, rise in insurance costs, price of salt, cost of fuel, fuel pump and repairs and where money comes from to train new staff.

**Street Lights** - Discussion regarding street lights not working and who is responsible for replacing lights.

**Transit Services** - Bill Nebelski reports that people are riding the bus for free. Should pay for riding the bus.

**Solid Waste Collection** – A brief discussion took place regarding the following topics: When does contract run? Triple T has gone up on prices. Open up trash pick up to small businesses. What can be done to bring cost down? Should we have Triple T handling recyclables? Have town people pick up and take to transfer station.

**Health Officer** – no discussion

**Welfare Administration** – no discussion

**Library** – no discussion

**Flags** – majority of flags are no good. Suggest writing an article to replace flags and run by Select board.

**Summer Program** – a brief discussion took place regarding salary and surrounding towns' salaries and comparability. There is an additional 80 more hours budgeted for 2023.

**Pool** – Salary needs to be added. Bottom line is \$42,949. \$28, 010, \$38,549. Water aerobics instructor should get a raise from the current \$20/hr.

**Community Events** – no discussion

**Community Center** – Steve reports that Sarah will be at the meetings scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. A discussion took place regarding the Assistant and whether there was a need for one, running Welfare Department out of the Community Center, matching salary of Janitor who came from the school and limit rentals on amount of trash.

**Water and Sewer** – no discussion

**Wastewater Treatment Plant** – no discussion

### **Miscellaneous**

Bill Nebelski shares his concern re the Community Center leaving lights on and exhaust fan on in bathrooms.

Dennis will pick up School Budget and distribute to Budget Committee members.

Next Budget Committee Meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.