

Select Board Meeting Minutes

*Wednesday, **November 20, 2024** meeting held at Hinsdale Town Hall-Auditorium-Select Board joining the Budget Committee*

Present: Chairman Steve Diorio, Selectman Richard Johnson and Selectman Mike Carrier. Selectman William Hodgman and Selectman Bernie Rideout were excused. Also present were Kim Worden, Town Administrator Kathryn Lynch, Finance Director Jodie Holmquist, Gary Sibley and spouse, Bob Truesdell, Karen Johnson (at 6:51 p.m.), Taran Benedict, Dennis Nadeau, Kenny Howe, Dan Seymour, Bill Nebelski, Mike Bomba (by phone), Alex Duso (by phone), April Anderson, and Sean Leary, and Josh Green.

6:05 p.m. Dennis Nadeau called the Budget Meeting to order.

6:05 p.m. Chair Diorio called the Selectmen Meeting to order.

Chair Diorio thanked the Budget Committee for inviting the Select Board.

Water Department

It was mentioned that it was discovered that the Water Department and Waste Water budget previously approved by Select Board had an error in COLA. It was entered at 2.5% instead of 2% and has been corrected.

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve the adjusted amount for Water at \$711,135.53, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Waste Water

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve the adjusted amount for Waste Water at \$563,448.29, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously. Following a question from Chair Diorio, the overall effect on numbers went from 1.75 to 1.67% per T.A. Lynch.

Executive/TA

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve Executive and TA Budget at \$245,469.03, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously. Nebelski on Budget Committee motioned to table all until they meet by themselves, seconded by Howe. Their motion passed.

Reval of Properties

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve \$59,282.00 for Reval of Properties Budget, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Legal

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve Legal Budget at \$53,000, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Prop. Liab.

It was discussed that Prop. Liab. Was never changed from \$40,000. Invoices and debt were looked at. Bomba noted that it is already \$24,000 over. T.A. Lynch responded that scout hall property had to be looked at, cost for bond attorney is 7000-8000 and some years it will be over and others under.

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Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve Prop, Liab., etc. Budget at \$55,000, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Diorio mentioned that the Board has reviewed, discussed, and gone over these budgets more than once before tonight with Department Heads.

Rescue and Mutual Aid

T.A. Lynch commented that we received the contract for the next three years, the price is down, and reflected. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve the Rescue and Mutual Aid Budget at \$147,398.14, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Street Lights

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve Street Lights Budget at \$14,000, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously. Following a question, the response was that this includes maintenance and electricity.

Transit Service

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve Transit Service Budget at \$15,500, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously. Discussion followed. T.A. Lynch will check on whether contracted and ask for street lights breakdown.

Health Agencies and Hospitals

This is down over 10%. T.A. Lynch explained that some are down and some no longer there. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve Health Agencies and Hospitals Budget at \$53,866.00, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Conservation Commission

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve Conservation Budget at \$700., second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously. Request number will be corrected on the sheet.

Finance

This had an overall decrease of nearly 10%. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve Finance Budget at \$177,002.76, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously. Discussion included that most of the decrease is due to switching banks and no longer will need to pay armored car fees and other bank fees. We will also generate a lot more interest.

Community Development/Planning

Public notices decrease is due to notices posted on Town website saving some money. This is due to recent statutes being amended. T.A. Lynch announced the wonderful solar grant that Josh applied for and was granted. This will go near the landfill and won't cost anything in the end. It was a \$200,000 grant for a \$228,000 project. There is a 15% federal tax credit given back. This is for 60 kilowatts and will save \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year for a number of years. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve the Community

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Development/Planning Budget at \$111,281.38, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Government Buildings

T.A. Lynch explained differences re: custodial, insurances, looking at it all and placing in appropriate budgets. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve Government Buildings Budget at \$97,140.33, noting it was down almost 33%, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Following a question on the solar grant, it was determined that electricity will be used at the Transfer Station, Police Station and Town Hall.

Kenny Howe asked about salary line of custodian. T.A. Lynch clarified lines affected by maintenance lump sum salary (percentages at which departments). She added that credits for oil were applied, resulting in less asks.

Cemeteries

It was discussed and confirmed that the first line, line 51100, should read CE Salary (not Vehicle Expense). Jodie spoke of the Cemetery Meeting last night. The sexton increased hours for summer help and would like an additional \$4000. He is asking for more hours for someone to mow and they will need to find more help. Trustees are hopeful that they can obtain the retired police Explorer (if their warrant article passes) for cemetery needs to provide a vehicle to move equipment around. She explained reasons for a cemetery expendable trust fund. An oak tree over Colonel Hinsdale's site was hit by lightning and needs removal. A trust fund that's flown under the radar which can only be used for Pine Grove Cemetery with a \$62,000 balance and nothing being done since 1965. They just voted to use some of those funds to put fencing around that cemetery (and gave example of that need). Selectman Johnson commended her for doing a superb job and in a great deal of work researching. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to increase** the Cemetery Salary line by \$4,000, second by Carrier. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve Cemeteries Budget at \$33,964.67, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Building Inspector

Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve Building Inspector Budget at \$47,344.69, noting it is down almost 11%, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously. Selectman Johnson added that vehicle allowance now goes to salary per audit.

Transfer Station

Transfer Station was tabled earlier due to clerical error. Lines were shifted, amounts remain the same. Sheets have been corrected. Most increases were due to salary. Landfill permits, tool line, and uniforms increased. Bob added that leftover pay-per-bags will be sold as regular trash bags (covering the cost the town paid per roll) after the first of the year. They will be \$2.00 for a roll of small bags and \$4.00 for roll of large. Suggestions were to use for town offices, Earth Day, and to sell them. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve Transfer Station Budget at \$340,346.80, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

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Bill Nebelski had a question on income generated and was referred to page 156. \$187,832.82 is the expected generated income from the \$340,346.80. There was a suggestion that perhaps bags could be used at the school.

Health Officer

The amount of \$2,345.08 was mentioned being down slightly. Selectman Carrier **made a motion** to approve Health Officer Budget at \$2345.08, second by Johnson. The vote was as follows: Diorio-aye; Johnson-aye; and Carrier-aye. Motion passes unanimously.

Updated total was discussed. There is currently an increase of 1.67% without tonight's changes.

7:35 p.m. Selectman Johnson **made a motion to adjourn** for the Select Board, second by Carrier. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,
Secretary