

Town of Bridgewater Vermont
Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes

Budget Workshop

January 30, 2024

Present: William O. Young-Chair, George Spear-Vice Chair, Stephen S. Tarleton – Road Commissioner, Melissa Spear-Treasurer, Nancy Robinson-Clerk, Victoria Young-Administrative Assistant/Lister

Visitors: Bruce Maxham

Zoom: Dennis & Joan Wideman

Agenda:

Call To Order: William called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

- Changes to the Agenda: Melissa added Audit Management Representation Letter
- Nancy added the Town Warning

Budget Discussion: Melissa informed the Board that the Audit had been received on Monday. She had the Representation Letter for William to sign. The Board reviewed it and William signed.

General: Total Budget for FY 2025 - \$1,073,139.78 with \$930,379.78 to be raised in taxes. (See information of addition to the General Fund below)

Highway: Total Budget for FY 2025 - \$720,485.00 with \$615,080.86 to be raised in taxes. Only change to Highway was a change to the surplus carried forward to \$7,404.14

Sewer: No Changes – Total Sewer Budget of \$115, 596.01 with Unit charge of \$667.00 per unit (currently \$550.00) for FY 2024-2025 which includes an operating deficit of \$15,646.01 to be raised in the budget. The results of the audit placed RBC Repair expenses and ARPA funds revenue in the sewer fund – leaving an additional \$40,765.68 deficit in the sewer fund. The total deficit in the sewer fund is \$56,411.69, If the total deficit were raised in the sewer fund - the per unit charge would be \$903.00. Recommendation was to raise the \$40,765.68 in the General Fund to cover the last of the RBC failure costs.

Melissa explained the addition to the General Fund (under section “*Interest on Bank Loans & Deficit*”) adding the Interest that will be due on the Mascoma Loan (\$19,736.61), and the two FEMA Notes 1 & 2 (\$91,089.86 & \$33,961.63), the General Fund deficit (\$162,000.00) and adding the Sewer-RBC deficit of \$40,765.68 - totaling \$347,553.78 to the General Fund budget FY 2025. By adding these additional expenses to the General Fund - The total amount to be raised in taxes (\$1,545,460.64) is still *lower* than the amount raised last year (\$1,580,763.63) by 2.23%. Moving the RBC costs to the General Fund is a one-time thing – not normal expenses for the WW Plant. Moving the sewer deficit to the General fund was approved by the Auditor. After

brief discussion - the Board agreed to move the RBC expense to the General Fund – instead of putting a bigger burden and almost a doubling of unit charge increase on the Users.

General discussion of delinquent sewer accounts and tax sales.

Adopt Budgets: William made a motion to adopt the combined General and Highway budgets of \$1,793,624.78 with the amount to be raised in taxes of \$1,545,460.64 for FY 2025 – seconded by Steve – motion passed unanimously.

William made a motion to adopt the Sewer Fund Budget of \$115,596.01 - seconded by Steve – motion passed unanimously.

Other: Nancy presented the Warning to be reviewed including the budget amounts and the amount to be raised. William made a motion to adopt the Annual Town Meeting Warning – seconded by George – motion passed.

Adjourn: William made a motion to adjourn at 4:53 p.m. - seconded by George – motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Young,

Administrative Assistant