

Town of Bridgewater Vermont
Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes

Budget Workshop

January 16, 2023

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: None

Zoom: Diane Martin, Dennis & Joan Wideman, Marsha Fraser, Jerry Oppenheimer & Unknown phone call-in

Call to Order: William called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

- Changes to the Agenda: Amendment to Personnel Policy - No changes now.

BACF Lease – The new lease is still being prepared, expiring on the 21st of January, so we will extend it until the January 23rd meeting to be signed. William made a motion to extend the Lease for two days – to be signed on the 23rd – seconded by Steve – the motion passed.

Budget Discussion:

General: A few lines were filled in with updated information that we received after the last budget meeting. Wages & benefits will be addressed next week. Some more lines were filled in with updated insurance costs, and, also the under the Sheriff's Department was added-accepting Option 1 as was proposed by Ryan Palmer- which includes 10 Hours of dedicated patrol & 12-16 hours a day for calls for service total of \$32,000.00. Nancy had updated Warned Appropriations total of \$25,500.00.

Highway: The Board filled in the budget numbers. Randy had suggested level funding of most of the expenses. Numbers were adjusted to reflect increased or decreased costs based on previous years' expenses. The Building Improvement Reserve line was increased to add funds for the Salt Shed Building that will be starting sometime in the next year or so. All lines were filled except for wages & benefits which will be addressed next week.

Sewer: The expenses were completed, and discussion of revenue ensued. Because of the increase in the budget and limited revenues of mostly Quarterly fees - the fees will not cover the expenses at the current \$550.00 per unit charge. There will most likely be an increase in the unit charge to cover the budget. Numbers were adjusted to bring the

expenses down as much as possible. Final numbers will be worked on for next week's meeting.

The balance sheet for the Sewer account was also discussed. Going back to 2021 – the sewer account had a \$4,052.00 fund balance. In FY 2022- when we had the catastrophic event of the failure of the plant – ARPA money (\$143,932.88) was used to offset the major expenses (\$183,892.69) in the sewer fund. Leaving \$40,000.00 of expenses not covered. Without the major costs - the sewer fund would have had a \$26,312.24 surplus- but the \$40,000.00 of additional expenses put the sewer fund in a deficit of \$13,647.57 for FY'22. In 2023 – when we went to a cash basis of accounting – the sewer fund ended the year with a \$15,646.01 deficit. At the end of FY 2023 - the sewer fund has an accumulated deficit of \$33,463.86. Vicky explained that either the deficit would need to be included in the sewer budget – or- we could use the Restricted Fund Balance from previous years that was set aside for major breakdowns. This fund currently has \$44,226.95. After discussion –William made a motion to use up to \$35,000.00 from the restricted fund to cover the deficits of FY-22 & FY-23. Seconded by Steve – the motion passed unanimously.

Other: Nancy had a draft of the Warning to review. Minor changes to that. Discussion of the Exemption for the Bridgewater Grange – could be a 5- or 10-year (One time only) term. A 5-year term was decided.

Next regular meeting is January 23, 2024

Adjourn: William made a motion to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. Seconded by Steve – motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Young, Administrative Assistant