

Moultonborough Advisory Budget Committee Minutes – 3, April, 2023

ABC Present: Kay Peranelli, Jean Beadle, Linda Murray, Joe Adams, Mary Phillips

Absent: With prior notification: Kathy Garry

Chairman Peranelli opened the meeting at 1: P.M.

The first order of business was approval of prior minutes as follows:

- January 20, 2023 - Motion made by Linda seconded by Jean; Unanimously approved.

Next, Mary presented a summary of the recently completed 2023/2024 CIPC process. Highlights included:

- CIPC reviewed \$5.1 million dollars of projects presented by the department heads
- CIPC 's final recommendations included capital projects of \$2.5 million.
- CIPC recommended reserves of \$35 K for the Library and \$150 K for the Fire Department

Next, the Committee addressed the current cost additions to the proposed 2023/2024 operating budget including:

- Coalition Communities: Increase from 7K to \$20 K
- Assessing: increase of \$5,100 for training
- Town Clerk: increase \$2,356 for training
- Executive Office: decrease \$1,000
- Police: restoration of 12 months budget for Lieutenant and 1 officer position (dollar amount still to determined; Est approximately \$90 K.)

The total operating budget including the above changes represents \$10,045,976; 10.4 % increase over the prior year.

The open issue still to be determined by the Select Board is that of additional firefighters. Currently, the budget includes three additional firefighters The Chief has requested six additional staff. There is also a petition warrant article asking for six additional firefighters. Jean informed the Committee that the Select Board at their next meeting will decide to either raise the budget to include all six or could remove the three that are currently accounted for. At a minimum, someone from the floor of Town Meeting may have to amend the petition warrant article so that the total additional firefighters does not exceed six.

Next, the Committee discussed the latest draft of the proposed 2023/2024 Town Budget Report. The Committee reviewed all comments as drafted. After discussion, the Committee decided that three of the original recommendations did not directly affect the overall budget and made the decision to add a supplemental report to include the topics listed below.

- Elevate the position of Town Administrator to Town Manager
- Increased adult programming for the Recreation Department
- Suggested changes in the program for budgeting capital projects

Finally, the Committee reviewed the draft warrant articles for Town Meeting. Kay explained that all ABC members would need to vote on each article at the Town Public Budget Hearing to be held in April.

Motion to Adjourn:

Moved by Jean and seconded by Linda to adjourn at 2:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Beadle, ABC

Note: The Committee has set up an email account. Access to that account can be found on the Town web page at <https://www.moultonboroughnh.gov/advisory-budget-committee>. All emails will be monitored by the committee and responded to during the subsequent meeting.