

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT TOWN COUNCIL - BUDGET COMMITTEE
FY 25 BUDGET REVIEW MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
STANDISH MUNICIPAL CENTER
175 NORTHEAST ROAD - STANDISH, MAINE
SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024
9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Finance Committee Chair Watson and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Town Councilors present: Gaba, Gardner, LeClerc, Macri, Pomerleau and Watson.
Councilor Deakin was excused.

Budget Committee members present: Delaney, Paul, Struebing, Waig and Watson.
Pamela Smith was excused.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Steven Nesbitt, Chair of the Budget Committee announced that the Budget Committee's recommendation is to accept the FY 25 10-Year Capital Plan as presented.

31-24 Receive the Budget Committee's Recommendations on the FY 25 10-Year Capital Improvements Plan and Approve the FY 25 10-Year Capital Improvements Plan [Watson]

(Postponed to March 16, 2024 at the March 9, 2024 Special Joint Town Council - Budget Committee FY 25 Budget Review Meeting)

Moved by LeClerc seconded by Gardner and voted to amend the order as follows:
Ordered that the Town Council vote on the Budget Committee's recommendation as follows:

To accept the Budget Committee's recommendation of acceptance of the FY 25 10-year Capital Plan as presented to the Budget Committee with no changes. (6 Yeas)
Finance Committee Chair, Brandon Watson called for the roll call vote on the order as amended.

WHEREAS at the Special Joint Town Council – Budget Committee meeting held on March 9, 2024, a thorough review of the FY 25 Capital Improvement Plan was completed by the Town Council and Budget Committee, and

WHEREAS the Town Council forwarded the FY 25 Capital Improvements Plan to the Budget Committee on March 9, 2024 pursuant to the provisions of the Town Charter, and

WHEREAS the Budget Committee has returned comments on the FY 25 Capital Improvements Plan, now be it

ORDERED that the Budget Committee's budget recommendations are hereby received and Standish Town Council has reviewed and considered the comments from the Budget Committee, now therefore be it

ORDERED that the Town Council votes on the Budget Committee's recommendations as follows:
To accept the Budget Committee's recommendation of acceptance of the FY 25 10-year Capital Plan as presented to the Budget Committee with no changes.

FURTHER ORDERED that the FY 25 10-Year Capital Improvements Plan is hereby approved.

VOTE ON ORDER AS AMENDED: 6 Yeas

NEW BUSINESS

- Review of the FY 25 municipal budget, decide on donations, and forward proposed FY 25 operating budget to Budget Committee

CEMETERIES

Maplewood Cemetery

Moved by Gaba seconded by LeClerc and voted to fund at the full request of \$500. (6 Yeas)

Oak Hill Cemetery Association

Moved by Leclerc seconded by Gaba and voted to fund at the full request of \$100. (6 Yeas).

Standish Village Cemetery Association

Councilor Macri questioned if the funds for the tree service that was incurred by this cemetery last year needed to be added to the request? Staff noted that the cemetery needs to forward an invoice to the town regarding the tree serve to be reimbursed.

Moved by Leclerc seconded by Watson to reduce the funding to \$3,000.

Discussion on the motion:

Councilor Macri questioned if it was known what the amount of land was involved between their fence and the road? The town manager suggested that perhaps the Parks and Recreation Department could assist with the mowing.

Councilor Pomerleau wasn't sure that \$3,000 was the amount that should be funded. He suggested that it should be reduced by \$1,000 and they pay for the tree service bill of \$585.

Moved by Leclerc seconded by Watson and voted to reduce the funding to \$3,000. (4 Yeas, Gaba, Leclerc, Pomerleau and Watson – Nays, Gardner and Macri)

VOTE ON FUNDING OF Standish Village Cemetery Association as amended to \$3,000: (6 Yeas)

Steep Falls Cemetery

Moved by Gaba seconded by LeClerc and voted to fund at the full request of \$1,500. (6 Yeas)

LIBRARIES

Richville Library

Moved by LeClerc seconded by Pomerleau to fund at the full request of \$4,000.

Discussion on the motion:

Finance Chair Watson's opinion that \$4,000 was a lot for this library.

Councilor Leclerc questioned did the town fund them last year? Scott Gesualdi replied, \$2,000.

Councilor Pomerleau noted that groups shouldn't expect a big bump every year. Councilor Macri noted that \$4,000 is reasonable for this group already has a lot of volunteer components in their organization.

Moved by Leclerc seconded by Pomerleau and voted to fund at the full request of \$4,000. (5 Yeas, Gaba, Gardner, Leclerc, Macri and Pomerleau- 1 Nay, Watson)

Steep Falls Library

Councilor LeClerc noted that previously they had requested funding for the acquisition of adjacent property, but that didn't happen, but that being said that offer a lot of benefits to the community.

Councilor Gaba said that the library wants to add a generator so they can serve as a warming center.

Moved by Leclerc to reduce the funding to \$15,000.

Councilor Gaba questioned what items were involved in the \$5,000 reduction?

Councilor LeClerc noted that \$15,000 would give them some wiggle room.

Finance Chair Watson announced that there was not a second on Councilor LeClerc's motion to reduce the amount to \$15,000, so the motion failed.

Moved by Pomerleau seconded by Gardner to fund at the full request of \$20,000.
(6 Yeas)

PROVIDER AGENCIES

Lifelight Foundation – Moved by Gaba seconded by LeClerc to fund the full request of \$2,000.

Councilor Macri voiced his concerns that their letter was not up-to-date in regards to who was the town manager. He said that they for a great service, however it was unclear how the funding is used.

Councilor Gaba agreed their letter lacks the personal touch, but they offer a great service.

Councilor Leclerc mentioned that he was apprehensive regarding how the funding is distributed, however they provide a needed service.

Budget Committee Chair Nesbitt questioned what other services do they offer?

Budget Committee member, Carol Waig, is an important service provider and they should be alerted to our staff changes.

Councilor Pomerleau noted he supported this group.

Finance Chair Watson called for the motion:

Moved by Gaba seconded by LeClerc to fund the full request of \$2,000. (5 Yeas, Gaba, Gardner, Leclerc, Pomerleau and Watson – 1 Nay, Watson)

Maine Public Television MPBN

Moved by LeClerc seconded by Gardner and voted to fund the full request of \$100. (4 Yeas, Gardner, LeClerc, Macri and Pomerleau – 2 Nays, Gaba and Watson)

Northern Light Health

Councilors Macri questioned if this group was affiliated with other Northern Light Health groups?

Budget Committee member, Todd Delaney, said that they formerly VNA. Councilor Leclerc noted that in the information that they submitted they provided statistics of the care they provided in Standish, noting that this is a worthy cause.

Councilor Macri questioned what services did they provide that they were not reimbursed by insurance for?

Budget Committee member, Carol Waig, noted that they provided their financials and they don't appear to be a non-profit group.

Councilor LeClerc noted that their information noted that this funding will help to cover what is not reimbursed by insurance.

Councilor Gardner noted that they disclosed their charity work and he thought that the funding may go towards that.

Councilor Leclerc asked how much were they funded last year? Scott Gesualdi said they received no funding last year.

Moved by Pomerleau seconded by Watson and voted to reduce the amount to \$500. (2 Yeas, Pomerleau and Watson – 4 Nays, Gaba, Gardner, LeClerc and Macri)

Moved by LeClerc seconded by Pomerleau and voted to fund the full request of \$1,250. (4 Yeas, Gaba, Gardner, LeClerc, and Pomerleau – 2 Nays, Macri and Watson)

Opportunity Alliance

Councilor Gaba questioned their past assistance in Standish. Manager Pinkham explained that we sought help for a resident from this group and were told that housing assistance was a year wait.

Councilor Gaba said that they are a wonderful group, however we are not receiving their services.

Moved by LeClerc second by Watson to reduce the funding to \$500.

Budget Committee member, Carol Waig, echoed Councilor Gaba's remarks and noted she personally contacted the presenter and did not receive a response.

Councilor Gaba suggested that she believed that \$1,000 was an appropriate funding level.

Tashia Pinkham noted that she appreciates their services to families with special needs.

Moved by LeClerc/Watson to withdraw the motion to reduce the funding to \$500.

Moved by LeClerc second by Watson and voted to reduce the funding to \$1,000.
(6 Yeas)

**VOTE ON FUNDING OF OPPORTUNITY ALLIANCE as amended to
\$1,000: (6 Yeas)**

Through These Doors

Councilor Macri noted that they should consider funding this request at a higher level. Tashia Pinkham noted due to their staffing shortages they have not held office hours in Standish.

Councilor Pomerleau noted that their statistics showed that they served 85 people in Standish and that is worth more than \$500.

Finance Chair Watson agreed Councilor Macri and Pomerleau's statements. Moved by Macri seconded by Pomerleau and voted to amend the amount of funding from \$500 to \$2,500. (6 Yeas)

**VOTE ON FUNDING OF THROUGH THESE DOORS as amended to
\$2,500: (6 Yeas)**

Woodfords Family Services – Moved by LeClerc seconded by Pomerleau and voted to fund the full request of \$500. (6 Yeas)

MISC. ASSOCIATIONS

Steep Falls Clinic

Councilor Pomerleau noted that he spoke with the presenter and was told that they will not ask for as much funding in the future, they are just trying to catch up on the improvements.

Moved by Pomerleau seconded by Gardner to fund the full request of \$15,000. Councilor Gaba noted that they provided good backup for previous funding that they have received.

Councilor LeClerc noted that he had asked about the priority of their upcoming improvements, noting that expansion of the exam room was at the top of the list.

Moved by Pomerleau seconded by Gardner and voted to fund the full request of \$15,000. (6 Yeas)

Saco River Corridor Commission

Moved by Pomerleau seconded by LeClerc and voted to fund the full request of \$600. (6 Yeas)

Standish Active Seniors

Moved by LeClerc seconded by Gaba to fund the full request of \$1,000.

Councilor LeClerc noted that he fully supports this group.

Moved by LeClerc seconded by Gaba and voted to fund the full request of \$1,000. (6 Yeas)

Standish Historical Society

Councilor Macri noted that he was disappointed that they didn't consider asking companies that are going out of business for mannequins.

Councilors Pomerleau and Gardner had the same concerns.

Moved by Gardner seconded by LeClerc to reduce the amount of funding to \$1,500 to provide funding for the archival boxes and window shades.

Bruce Douglass explained that they have sought donations from companies, however they need mannequins, actually dress forms in a petite size.

Councilor LeClerc questioned if they did not get the fund for the dress forms what would happen?

Bruce Douglass said that they would not be able to exhibit the clothing.
Councilor Gardine asked other historical groups if they had mannequins that they no longer used?

Bruce Douglass said that most local historical groups don't have mannequins and state historical groups have mannequins that cost thousands.

Moved by Gardner seconded by LeClerc to reduce the amount of funding to \$1,500 to provide funding for the archival boxes and window shades. (4 Yeas, Gardner, LeClerc, Pomerleau and Watson – 2 Nays, Gaba and Macri)

VOTE ON FUNDING OF STANDISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY as amended to \$1,500: (6 Yeas)

Standish Sno Seekers – Scott Gesualdi the Finance Director explained that this is a passthrough fund, meaning the group will receive what is due them through the snowmobile registration program.

Moved by Macri seconded by Gardner and voted to add the funding the amount of \$3,500 based on the snowmobile registration reimbursement program. (6 Yeas)

**VOTE ON FUNDING OF STANDISH SNO SEEKERS as amended to \$3,500:
(6 Yeas)**

Steep Falls Farmers Market

Moved by Gaba seconded by LeClerc and voted to fund at the full request of \$1,200. (6 Yeas)

Steep Falls Village Improvements Society

Councilor Macri said that he would abstain from the vote since he serves on the committee.

Moved by Gaba seconded by LeClerc and voted to fund at the full request of \$500.

(5 Yeas, Gaba, Gardner, LeClerc, Pomerleau and Watson – 1 Abstain, Macri)

Sebago Lake Region Chamber of Commerce

Councilor LeClerc noted that he would abstain from this vote because he serves on the Board of the Food Pantry and they receive funding from the Chamber.

Moved by Gaba seconded by Gardner and voted to fund at the full request of \$1,500. (5 Yeas, Gaba, Gardner, Macri, Pomerleau and Watson – 1 Abstain, LeClerc)

Standish Food Pantry

Councilor LeClerc noted that he would abstain from this vote because he serves the Board of the Food Pantry.

Moved by Pomerleau seconded by Gardner and voted to fund at the full request of \$7,500. (5 Yeas, Gaba, Gardner, Macri, Pomerleau and Watson – 1 Abstain, LeClerc)

Councilor Macri suggested that the town consider hiring a grant writer to assist these groups financially.

Councilor Pomerleau noted that years ago they funded a grant writer and it paid off based on the grant money we received.

Tashia Pinkham said that she and Zach have received approximately a million

dollars in grant funding.

Councilor Gaba recalled the earlier budget discussion about the grant matching Funds. These funds are used for matching funds to facilitate staff when applying for grants.

Finance Chair Watson called for the order 32-24.

**32-24 Forward FY 25 Municipal Operating Budget to the Budget Committee
[Watson]**

ORDERED that the proposed Town of Standish FY 25 municipal operating is hereby forwarded to the Budget Committee on March 16, 2024, and

FURTHER ORDERED that the Budget Committee will have 14 days to review the operating budget and return their recommendations regarding the operating budget pursuant to the requirements of the Standish Charter to the Council at the April 9, 2024, regular Town Council Meeting which begins at 6:00 p.m.

VOTE: 6 Yeas

OTHER ITEMS

There were no other items at this meeting.

Moved by Gardner seconded by Gaba and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. by unanimous consent.

Submitted by:
Clerk/secretary

