

**MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT TOWN COUNCIL- BUDGET COMMITTEE
FY 24 BUDGET RELATED MEETING
STANDISH MUNICIPAL CENTER
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
STANDISH, MAINE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Councilor Brian Libby, Finance Committee Chair, called the Special Joint Town Council – Budget Committee budget meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Councilors present: Butler, Gaba, Libby, Paul and Watson. Councilor LeClerc attended the meeting via Zoom. Councilor Macri was excused.

Budget Committee members present: Delaney, Nesbitt, Petrov, Smith, Struebing and Waig. Leo Robichaud attended the meeting via Zoom.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Committee Chair, Steve Nesbitt, provided a comprehensive review of the Budget Committee's recommendations for the FY 24 municipal budget. Including amendments to the following FY 24 budget lines:

State Revenue Sharing

State Revenue Sharing – Reduce from \$1,343,234 to \$1,229,524 to reflect the State's current revenue sharing estimate dated 03/03/2024. Mr. Nesbitt said that an estimate has been used in the past, using the amount received to date may give a better estimate and more accurate figure than currently holding previous year's figure. This will not limit the amount the State will disperse. He noted that this recommendation was approved with a 5 -2 vote of the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee, after approving this amendment, the Revenue line was approved with a 6 – 1 vote of the Budget Committee.

Town Council

Mr. Nesbitt noted that there had been a discussion to reduce the Town Council Contingency from \$15,000 to \$10,000, this motion failed with a 1 - 6 vote of the Budget Committee.

Solid Waste - Contractual

Mr. Nesbitt noted that some Budget Committee members were in favor of adding \$10,000 to hold a Hazardous Waste Day in FY 24, some were against the amendment since a day was just held in September. He noted that this recommendation was approved with a 4 -3 vote of the Budget Committee. After approving this amendment, the Solid Waste line was approved with a 7 - 0 vote of the Budget Committee.

Donations

Provider Agencies

Mr. Nesbitt noted that some Budget Committee members were in favor of reducing the request from the Fuller Center for Housing from 5,000 to \$0 since they did not provide financial information that was requested, some were against the amendment because they are deserving agency. He noted that this recommendation was approved with a 5 - 2 vote of the Budget Committee. After approving this amendment, the donations line was approved with a 6 - 1 vote of the Budget Committee.

Capital Layout

Mr. Nesbitt noted that there had been a discussion to reduce the Capital outlay – Heavy Equipment Reserve from \$25,000 to \$15,000, however no second was offered.

All Other Departments

Mr. Nesbitt noted, that the Budget Committee recommended no changes to the Town Council's budget in the following departments with a 7 – 0 vote : Assessing, Code Enforcement, General Administration, Cable Television, Town Council, Town Clerk, Finance, Planning, Appeals Board, Building Maintenance, Public Safety, Law Enforcement, General Assistance, Public Works, Recreation, Rich Memorial Beach, Capital Layout, Employee Benefits, Insurance, Debt Service, Transfers Outs, Recreation Special Revenue Fund and Capital Projects.

Mr. Nesbitt noted the following procedural processes to be considered in future years:

- Donation Process – develop a guideline for submissions, attendance of agencies, disclosure that donation awards are determined at the Annual Town Meeting
- Policies and Limits – Establish policies regarding reserve accounts to better understand why the account exists and funding maximums
- Upfront Information – Add notes to budget pages for a better understanding of why funding is required
- Cruiser Information – Consider adding more information regarding current fleet
- Budget Timing – In order to provide ample time to consider the budget, a set schedule when the budget will be forwarded to the Budget Committee should be considered

16-23 Receive Budget Committee's Recommendations for the FY24 Municipal Operating and Capital Budgets [Libby]

WHEREAS the FY24 Town of Standish Municipal Operating and Capital Budgets were forwarded by Town Council Order 15-23 to the Budget Committee pursuant to the requirements of the Standish Charter, and

WHEREAS the Budget Committee has returned written comments on the budgets under their letter of transmittal, now be it

ORDERED that the Budget Committee's budget recommendations are hereby received by the Town Council for the proposed FY24 Town of Standish Municipal Operating and Capital Budgets, and

WHEREAS the 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 recommendations as follows:

State Revenue Sharing:

Scott Gesualdi, the Town's Finance Director noted that the amount annotated in the budget regarding State Revenue sharing was the best estimate used when developing the budget. He continued to explain that amending this number will change the mil rate.

Moved by Gaba seconded by Libby to accept the Budget Committee's recommendation to reduce the expected State revenue sharing amount from \$1,343,234 to \$1,229,524.

Finance Committee Chair, Brian Libby called for comments on the amendment to accept the Budget Committee's recommendation to reduce the expected State Revenue Sharing amount from \$1,343,234 to \$1,229,524, hearing no comments, he called for the roll call voted on the amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT REGARDING REDUCING THE EXPECTED AMOUNT OF STATE REVENUE SHARING TO BE RECEIVED: 6 YEAS - 0 NAYS

Departments with no Changes:

Moved by Gaba seconded by Watson and voted to accept the Budget Committee's on all department budgets in which they recommended no changes: Assessing, Code Enforcement, General Administration, Cable Television, Town Council, Town Clerk, Finance, Planning, Appeals Board, Building Maintenance, Public Safety, Law Enforcement, General Assistance, Public Works, Recreation, Rich Memorial Beach, Capital Layout, Employee Benefits, Insurance, Debt Service, Transfers Outs, Recreation Special Revenue Fund and Capital Projects.

VOTE ON BUDGET COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION OF DEPARTMENTS WITH NO CHANGES: 6 YEAS - 0 NAYS

Soild Waste – Contractual:

Finance Chair, Brian Libby said the next item was adding an additional Hazardous Waste collection day in FY 24. He said that it was his opinion that it was not needed since one was held last September.

Scott Gesualdi, the Finance Director explained that \$17,000 was spent for the Hazardous Waste Collection Day last September. He said that \$10,000 would not cover the costs of the event.

Town Council Chair, Sarah Gaba didn't believe that an additional day is needed in the upcoming year.

Councilor Paul said that holding the event every other year is enough.

Councilor Butler thought that we would pay for the number of items brought to be disposed of, he thought that the Budget Committee's recommendation was to cover the cost of holding an event for just this year since it's about half of last year's budgeted amount.

Budget Committee Chair, Steve Nesbitt said that it is his understanding that the event shuts down on the day of the event when the money allotted is used up.

Councilor LeClerc said that he was not in support of adding an additional day.

Moved by Watson seconded by Paul not to accept the Budget Committee's recommendation to add a Hazardous Waste Collection Day in FY 24.

Finance Committee Chair, Brian Libby called for comments on the amendment not to accept the Budget Committee's recommendation to add an additional Hazardous Waste Collection day in FY 24, hearing no comments, he called for the roll call voted on the amendment.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT NOT TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET COMMITTEE'S
RECOMMENDATION TO ADD A HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY IN FY 24: 5
YEAS - 1 NAY, Butler**

Donations:

Town Manager, Tashia Pinkham explained that she contacted the group right after the last meeting, however their information wasn't received in time to be discussed at the Budget Committee's meeting.

Council Chair Gaba asked for the Budget Committee's rationale for reducing the requested amount to \$0.

Budget Committee member, Todd Delaney explained that the committee did receive the information, but due to the timing of when it was received, it was past the point in their deliberations to act on the donation request.

Chair Gaba polled the Budget Committee if they retained their recommendation after reviewing the group's financials?

Budget Committee Chair, Steve Nesbitt said that he stood by their decision of \$0.

Budget Committee member, Carol Waig, explained that she was one of the votes in favor of leaving it in the budget and she still is.

Councilor LeClerc said that he was in favor of leaving the funding in the budget for this group.

Moved by Butler seconded by Paul and voted to leave the funding in the budget for the Fuller Center for Housing.

VOTE TO LEAVE FUNDING FOR THE FULLER CENTER FOR HOUSING IN THE BUDGET:
6 Yeas - 0 Nays

VOTE ON ORDER AS AMENDED: 6 YEAS – 0 NAYS

PUBLIC ITEMS

There were no public items at this meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements at this meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

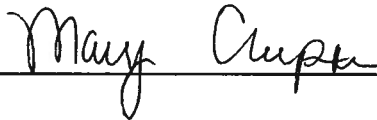
An executive session was not held at this meeting.

Finance Committee Chair, Brian Libby thanked the Budget Committee for their due diligence on the budget.

ADJOURN

Moved by Gaba second by Paul and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Submitted by:
Clerk/secretary

_____