**Minutes**

**Standish Budget Committee**

**Saturday March 16, 2024**

**Standish Municipal Center, Council Chambers**

**175 Northeast Road Standish, Maine**

**8:00AM**

**Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order by Steven Nesbitt.

**Roll Call**

Members present: Todd Delaney, Steven Nesbitt, Joseph Paul, Lisa Struebing, Carol Waig, & Heidi Watson

Excused Absence: Pam Smith

Motion to accept amended minutes from 03-13-2024 made by Todd Delaney, seconded by Heidi Watson.

**Vote: 6 Yeas**

**2024-2025 Budget Discussion:**

* **Capital – Public Works** (Page 270)
  + **Flagger in a Can**

Jon Cross, Public Works Director, attended the meeting. He handed out the requested material on an assessment/efficacy of using portable signals. He gave information that 30 sets of flaggers in a can are in use in the state. Towns close by are Gorham and Saco. Saco Public Works Director commented to him that they are the best flagger he has ever used; it improves morale and safety. Flagger in a can works up to 2000 feet (long work zone), a permit to use not needed in Maine, and takes 20 minutes to set up. Having a flagger in the can will increase productivity and possibly allow him to reduce crew size which could allow a second project to work simultaneously.

* **Capital – CY Highway Road Improvements** (Page 271)
  + **Moulton Hill Engineering**

John Cross, Public Works Director, handed out information on why the engineering study is needed. Council has reduced the budget request from $60,000 to $30,000 and he wanted to make sure the Budget Committee knows that at least $60,000 will be needed. He understands that there is a reserve account and other monies in the budget that can be used.Budget Committee confirmed that there is currently $30,858.21 in the reserve, unspent money from FY2024 budget, and proposed money ($65,000) in the FY2025 budget.

* **2024-2025 Capital Budget Approval**
  + Motion made by Todd Delaney to approve, seconded by Heidi Watson.
  + Lisa Struebing commented that at the previous meeting she was not for the flagger in a can. She supports it now because of the supporting information presented by John Cross.

**Vote: 6Yeas**

* **General Discussion**
* Todd Delaney gave information about the proposed SAD6 budget and right now there is an ~$700,000 increase. The School Board is currently in negotiations with all 3 unions.
* Steven Nesbitt discussed that the proposed budget was using $800,000 from the general fund to lower the MIL rate. $700,000 was spent last year. He doesn’t see this level of surplus being available in upcoming years and a reduction will have a significant impact on the MIL rate. Right now, there is a proposed reduction in the MIL rate (SAD6 impact to be determined). Budget Committee needs to be vigilant on ways to reduce the budget but still be able to give the Town what it needs to meet the resident’s needs. He is going to request the FY22 and FY23 final expense and revenue reports for use when we review the municipal portion of the budget.
* Discussion on solid waste and how this department has overspent in the last 5 years. John Cross, Public Works Director commented that since he started (last year) he has been analyzing this. He has made adjustments to this year’s budget that reflect what he feels are appropriate changes to bring the budget in line. Making changes to maintenance costs and adding in the correct fuel escalator and tonnage generated. The discussion continued on to user fees. They have not been adjusted in some time. Mr. Cross has looked at fees in various Towns and felt that Standish’s current fees are appropriate (some higher, some lower, some the same). Certain towns do not charge user fees but fund through property taxes.

**Adjourn**

Todd Delaney made a motion to adjourn, Joseph Paul seconded the motion.

**Vote: 6 Yeas**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45AM