

## MINUTES

### Sanbornton Budget Committee

**Meeting Date and Time:** Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 6:30pm

**Meeting Place:** Old Town Hall, 19 Meeting House Hill Rd, Sanbornton NH

**Present:** Chair Kate Osgood (in late), Dick Gardner, Bob Presby, Selectman Brandon Deacon, Tom Reneau, Bob Silvia

**a. Minutes of 12/19** – Dick Gardner made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 12/19. Bob Silvia seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**b. Revaluation of Property** - Dick explained that he read the job description for Land Use Administrator, a line in the Revaluation of Property budget, per his question at the last meeting. He stated that he would not make a motion to change anything as he feels that the intent of the position is to catch up on zoning issues as well as assessing deficiencies but he worries that finding one person to do both roles will be challenging. Bob Silvia asked what skills would be more important, zoning or assessing, and Selectman Deacon responded that he feels that knowledge of zoning will be more important and the assessing piece will include more data-entry.

Bob Presby made a motion to approve the BOS-recommended FY25 budget for Revaluation of Property 4152. Dick Gardner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**c. Personnel Admin** - Selectman Deacon explained that, since originally voting on the Personnel Admin budget, the BOS has decided to start requiring a 6% premium share for health and dental insurance during the next enrollment period in FY25, then 8% in FY26 and 10% in FY27. This the reason for the reduction in the Dept Request versus the BOS number. Bob Silvia stated that there was not an HRA or FSA figure showing for the last year and Ray Masse explained that these were previously combined with the Medical Insurance line and noted that the HRA is highly variable year to year.

Dick Gardner made a motion to approve the BOS-recommended FY25 budget for Personnel Admin 4155 for \$533,489. Bob Presby seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-1, with votes as follows:

Gardner/Yes; Presby/Yes; Deacon/Yes; Silvia/Yes; Reneau/No

**d. Zoning Board** – Bob Silvia asked if there are currently any legal issues for the ZBA and Selectman Deacon explained that there are not, but the BOS is dealing with legal issues related to zoning. Audry noted that the ZBA uses NHMA for a resource when possible but they will not answer questions related to specific cases which is the reason for the Legal line request. Bob Silvia made a motion to approve the BOS-recommended FY25 budget for Zoning Board 4192 for \$5,896. Dick Gardner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**e. Other General Gov't** – Bob Silvia made a motion to approve the BOS-recommended FY25 budget for Other General Government for \$4,377. Tom Reneau seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**f. Health Enforcement** – Bob Silvia stated that there is confusion as to what the Zoning Clerk will be doing. He asked Audry how many hours she spends as Clerk for ZBA currently and she responded it's

about four hours. Bob S stated that he thinks this could be part of the Land Use Administrator's duties. He made a motion to amend line .115A to \$7,500 and Tom Reneau seconded the motion. Ray noted that the figure could be \$7,137 for five hours a week in order to fit in the pay matrix, or \$8,564 for six hours. Bob S revised his motion to \$7,137 and Dick Gardner seconded the motion. Dick asked if there would be a way to recommend the hiring of the Zoning Clerk be postponed pending filling the Land Use Administrator position so that the BOS can determine what the need is. Selectman Deacon responded that the BC could suggest this, but hiring is the purview of the BOS and he is concerned about not having funds in the line if there is a need in FY25. The motion failed 2-3-1 with votes as follows:

Gardner/No; Presby/No; Deacon/No; Silvia/Yes; Reneau/Yes; Osgood/Abstain

Dick noted that he has the same reservations as Bob S about the position but acknowledges that this is the budget that the BOS recommended. Bob Presby made a motion to approve the BOS-recommended FY25 budget of \$43,082. Dick Gardner seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-2-1 with votes as follows:

Gardner/Yes; Presby/Yes; Deacon/Yes; Silvia/No; Reneau/No; Osgood/Abstain

**g. Health and Community Organizations** – Chair Osgood noted that Lakes Region Mental Health requested \$5,250 but the BOS recommended \$2,500 and Selectman Deacon explained that this was based on historical spending for the program. Tom noted that Lakes Region VNA only used \$2,000 last year but the BOS budgeted \$5,000; Audry found that their request form stated that they have not requested funds from the Town before. Ray noted that the VNAs in New Hampshire have restructured a lot in the last several years and changed the regions they cover, and this could be the reason for this particular VNA not having requested funds before. Tom stated that he understands that regions may have changed but the past usage was \$2,000, not \$5,000.

Chair Osgood made a motion to approve the BOS-recommended FY25 budget for Health and Community Organizations 4415 for \$18,602. Dick Gardner seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-1-1 with votes as follows:

Gardner/Yes; Presby/Abstain; Deacon/Yes; Silvia/Yes; Reneau/No; Osgood/Yes

**h. Other Culture and Recreation** – Chair Osgood made a motion to approve the BOS-recommended FY25 budget for Other Culture and Recreation 4589 for \$2,251. Tom Reneau seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**i. Principal LT Bonds and Notes** - Chair Osgood made a motion to approve the BOS-recommended FY25 budget for LT Bonds and Notes 4711 for \$215,000. Tom Reneau seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**j. Interest LT Bonds and Notes** - Chair Osgood made a motion to approve the BOS-recommended FY25 budget for Interest LT Bonds and Notes 4721 for \$76,710. Tom Reneau seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**k. Capital Outlay** – Selectman Deacon explained that these are lease payments and there are CIP plans in place for saving towards these items versus leasing. Chair Osgood made a motion to approve the BOS-

recommended FY25 budget for Capital Outlay 4902 for \$0. Dick Gardner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**l. Operating Transfers Out to Capital Reserves** – Selectman Deacon noted that inflation has made some of the Highway Dept equipment go up 50% in price. Dick asked what the total increase is to the budget and Ray stated that the increase is 12.5% over last year not including warrant articles that are yet to be voted on. Dick asked what the increase is usually and Selectman Deacon responded that it has been between 6% and 8% in recent years. Dick asked what that means for the tax rate and Selectman Deacon stated that he is not sure until the total budget is done but the BOS has discussed putting the tax rate cost on each warrant article so that taxpayers can see that when they vote. He noted that the difference from last year would not be comparative to FY25 because it is a revaluation year. Dick stated that 12.5% still means more dollars than the increase last year.

Chair Osgood made a motion to approve the BOS-recommended FY25 budget for Operative Transfers Out to Capital Reserves 4915 for \$1,575,550. Dick Gardner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**m. Operating Transfers Out to Expendable Trust Funds** – Chair Osgood stated that this is for severance benefits. Selectman Deacon stated that this covers paid out sick and vacation time and the BOS will be looking at adjusting the Town policy for this and limiting the leave that can be paid out to control spending. Chair Osgood made a motion to approve the BOS-recommended FY25 budget for Operating Transfers Out to Expendable Trust Funds 4916 for \$20,000. Tom Reneau seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Upcoming meetings** – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday January 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss warrants. As previously discussed, members agreed to 6:30pm for a regular meeting time prior to the public hearing at 7:00pm on Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> (snow date of February 13<sup>th</sup>).

Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Audry Barriault