

MINUTES

Sanbornton Budget Committee

Meeting Date and Time: Wednesday, January 24th, 2024 6:30pm

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

Present: Chair Kate Osgood, Dick Gardner, Bob Presby, Selectman Brandon Deacon (remote), Tom Reneau, Bob Silvia, Chris Gagnon

Chair Kate Osgood made a motion to allow Selectman Brandon Deacon to participate remotely. Dick Gardner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

a. Minutes of 1/9 – Bob Silvia made a motion to approve the draft minutes of 1/9. Dick Gardner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

b. FY25 Warrant Articles

Article 1 – Operating Budget – Dick asked if the Budget Committee is approving or recommending the articles. Selectman Deacon stated that the legislative body will be approving so the Budget Committee recommends. Dick Gardner made a motion to recommend Article 1, Operating Budget, in the amount of \$5,657,161. Chair Osgood seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-2-0 with votes as follows:

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

Article 2 – Capital Outlay – Chair Osgood stated that this is \$1 to hold the line; there are no funds because these are for leases that have been paid in full already. Chair Osgood made a motion to recommend Article 2, Capital Outlay, in the amount of \$1. Chris Gagnon seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Article 3 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Funds – Ray stated that the statement in this article that says “Appropriations under this warrant article are not included in the Operating Budget total previously voted on under Article 1” is usually in a different article. Selectman Deacon stated that he will check with Trish about this. Bob Silvia stated that the amounts in this article do not match the amounts in the CIP spreadsheet. Ray stated that the items in the following four articles are part of the CIP spreadsheet so they are not all reflected in Article 3. Chair Osgood made a motion to recommend Article 3, Appropriate to Capital Reserve Funds, in the amount of \$1,575,550. Bob Presby seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Article 4 – Appropriate to Expendable Trust Funds – Chair Osgood made a motion to recommend Article 4, Appropriate to Expendable Trust Funds, in the amount of \$20,000. Dick Gardner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Article 5 – Winnisquam Watershed Preservation – Ray stated that he questions the statement in this article that says “appropriation to come from fund balance” as the fund balance in the new fiscal year is unknown. Selectman Deacon stated that it should say “up to \$100,000”. Chair Osgood stated that she is not comfortable voting on this without final language. Chris Gagnon made a motion to table the vote on

Article 5 until there is a final appropriation figure and language determined by legal counsel. Dick Gardner seconded the motion and the motion passed 6-0-1 with votes as follows:

Osgood/Yes; Gardner/Yes; Presby/Yes; Silvia/Yes; Deacon/Abstain; Reneau/Yes; Gagnon/Yes

Article 6 – Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund – Ray stated that the BOS voted on \$27,500 but the CIP Committee voted on \$20,585 and the latter figure is what’s included in the warrant. He added that the BOS could revote but that is up to them. Chair Osgood made a motion to recommend Article 6, Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund, in the amount of \$20,585. Dick Gardner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Article 7 – Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus CRF – Dick Gardner asked if the CIP voted on this item and Ray responded that the CIP minutes reflect that they felt establishing a new CRF was in the purview of the BOS, so they did not vote on it. Bob Silvia stated that this new CRF is to replace the existing SCBA in ten years. Dick stated that he feels there are many expenses being requested to have a state-of-the-art Fire Department, including \$50,000 to renovate Chapel Station, and with a 12.5% increase to the budget already he does not think this additional CRF is needed this year. Chair Osgood made a motion to recommend Article 7, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus CRF, in the amount of \$25,000. Selectman Deacon seconded the motion and the motion failed 2-3-2 with votes as follows:

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

Article 8 – Changes to Elderly Exemption – Language is still being worked on for this article. No votes taken.

Article 9 – Tax Impact – No monetary impact.

Article 10 – Petitioned Warrant Article SB2 – No monetary impact.

c. Other business – Chair Osgood stated that Trish has provided a letter about the job responsibilities for the Land Use positions discussed at previous Budget Committee meetings. Bob Silvia stated that this still does not answer the questions about the positions and is unacceptable and Tom agreed. Chris asked how many taxable properties there are in town and the answer was unknown; she will check with the Town Clerk.

Upcoming meetings – As previously discussed, members agreed to 6:30pm for a regular meeting time prior to the public hearing at 7:00pm on Tuesday February 6th (snow date of February 13th). Audry will send the notice to be published in the Daily Sun tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Audry Barriault