

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday November 28th, 2022

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Vice-Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, Police Chief Mike Bilodeau, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Budget Committee Members Chris Wayss and Emily Savinelli, Library Trustee Jack O'Reilly, Fire Engineer Chair John Klanchesser, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Finance Director Sheryl Bagley, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:36pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Proposed Cuts for 2023 Budget:

M. Roy read a list of proposed cuts to the 2023 budget; \$2,600 from the Executive Office, \$2,000 from Elections, \$25,000 from Finance and Assessing, \$25,000 from Legal, \$1,000 from Town Buildings Administration, \$13,500 from various Town Buildings, \$12,490 from Regional Associations, \$85,000 from Highway, \$12,717 from the Library, \$5,000 from Land Management, \$60,000 from Capital Outlay, \$20,000 from Library Building Capital Reserve, \$100,000 from the Major Roads Capital Reserve and \$19,048 from Insurance due to a premium holiday, for a total of \$364,307.

Discussion ensued about the Ambulance capital reserve. E. Hoyt said that it couldn't be reduced because major equipment was also purchased out of this fund, so all funds are needed. B. Arsenault asked if the SCBA warrant article could be delayed until next year. E. Hoyt said he thought so, the department could lease SCBA again if needed.

The Police Department asked for 2 cruisers in 2023 due to the loss of a cruiser this year and the high mileage on the remaining cruisers. M. Bilodeau said that getting only one cruiser in 2023 would put the Police Department "behind the eight ball".

Discussion ensued about town buildings costs and the need for conservation measures for all town buildings. The Library keeps their lights on after hours. J. O'Reilly disagreed and said that the lights go off when the alarm is set when the staff leaves and the lights go on when the staff turns off the alarm in the morning.

The Highway road projects for 2023 are; Nimble Hill Road from Fox Point to Little Bay, these funds will be encumbered, Fox Point from Old Post Road to the stop sign for \$89,000 and McIntyre Road thru the bend at the airport for \$71,000. M. Roy said that Len Thomas said that he would not like to see the Major Roads warrant article for \$100,000 cut.

The Police Department has an increase in salaries because they have a new pay plan for 2023. The new pay plan puts them more in line with other departments in the state.

The Fire Department has a \$125,000 surplus from their 2022 budget. The surplus is due to money saved in salaries because they are short staffed. They expect to be fully staffed in 2023. B. Blonigen suggested that the Fire Department buy a new command truck out of their 2022 surplus. E. Hoyt agreed and then also agreed to reduce their Fire Vehicles capital reserve warrant article from \$220,000 to \$150,000.

J. O'Reilly said that the Library Trustees could meet with the Selectmen on December 12th. The Library operating expenses increased by 50% for 2023. Discussion ensued about the Library taking over payment of all their bills and the Town prefunding their budget each quarter. This item will be discussed at the December 12th Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Executive Office 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Executive Office budget of \$361,952 which reflects the \$2,600 in suggested cuts. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Election/Registration 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Election/Registration budget of \$8,995 which reflects the \$2,000 in suggested cuts. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Tax Collector/Town Clerk 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Tax Collector/Town Clerk budget of \$111,038. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Finance & Assessing 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Finance & Assessing budget of \$109,584 which reflects the \$25,000 in suggested cuts. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Legal 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Legal budget of \$45,001 which reflects the \$25,000 in suggested cuts. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Planning Board 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Planning Board budget of \$171,865. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor. B. Arsenault said that he would like to contact Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert to ask him if any cuts could be made to the budget.

Town Buildings Administration 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Town Buildings Administration budget of \$18,500 which reflects the \$1,000 in suggested cuts. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Town Buildings 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Town Buildings budget of \$198,700 which reflects the \$13,500 in suggested cuts. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Cemetery 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Cemetery budget of \$20,103. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Insurance 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Insurance budget of \$269,488 which reflects the \$19,048 in suggested cuts. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Regional Associations 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Regional Associations budget of \$35,649 which reflects the \$12,490 in suggested cuts. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Police Department 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Police Department budget of \$2,017,483. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Fire Department 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Fire Department budget of \$2,146,959. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Code Enforcement 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Code Enforcement budget of \$174,989. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Emergency Management 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Emergency Management budget of \$20,939. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Highway Department 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Highway Department budget of \$570,554 which reflects the \$85,000 in suggested cuts. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Street Lighting 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Street Lighting budget of \$16,700. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Transfer Station-Collection 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Transfer Station-Collection budget of \$86,076. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Residential Waste Collection 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Residential Waste Collection budget of \$93,368. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Pest Control 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault would like to see this budget cut to \$1. T. Connors disagreed because he thought that pest control was needed for health reasons. M. Roy said that the Town currently has a contract with Dragon Mosquito. B. Blonigen moved to approve the 2023 Pest Control budget for \$30,650. T. Connors seconded the motion. B. Blonigen and T. Connors in favor with B. Arsenault opposed.

Health 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Health budget of \$1. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Welfare-Direct Assistance 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Welfare-Direct Assistance budget of \$1. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Recreation Committee 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Recreation Committee budget of \$147,780. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Land Management 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Land Management budget of \$64,250 which reflects the \$5,000 in suggested cuts. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Langdon Library 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Langdon Library budget of \$235,728 which reflects the \$13,600 in suggested cuts. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Historic District Commission 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Historic District Commission budget of \$22,391. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Conservation Commission 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Conservation Commission budget of \$9,342. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Economic Development 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Economic Development budget of \$13,110. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Debt Service 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Debt Service budget of \$27,671. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Capital Outlay 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Capital Outlay budget of \$113,666 which reflects the \$60,000 in suggested cuts. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sewer 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Sewer budget of \$1,290,912. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Capital Reserve 2023 Budget:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the 2023 Capital Reserve budget of \$289,562 which reflects the \$210,000 in suggested cuts. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Buyout Rate 33%-Employee Benefit:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the health insurance buyout rate of 33% for town employees. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Percent Split Premium Cost Share:

B. Arsenault moved to approve the health insurance percent split premium cost share of 11/89 for the AB20 plan and 20/80 for the BCT20 plan. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

B. Arsenault asked that M. Roy add the request for the hydrant reports to the Portsmouth Water letter.

B. Arsenault asked that the proposed Conservation warrant article be giving to Conservation Chair Jane Hislop before the 12/8/22 Conservation meeting.

B. Arsenault asked if the penalties for Unitil for damaging Gosling Road have been determined yet. M. Roy said that legal has sent a letter.

B. Arsenault asked for an update on Tom Hourihan's water issue. M. Roy said that the project has been delayed until Spring. The Air Force will be providing water to him until then.

The dock bids have been received and will be on a future agenda. \$40,000 was the low bid.

The veteran's credit warrant articles have been drafted and they will be on a future agenda.

Discussion ensued about the flooding on Shattuck Way. Town Engineer, Eric Weinrieb, sent a letter saying that he agrees with the State's calculations. He suggested that the State install flow gauges to determine the problem. M. Roy will prepare a letter asking for the NHDOT to install the gauges instead of the Town. The NHDOT said they would support Sprague's dredge permit. T. Connors said that he would contact Tim Winters about getting the permit that will hopefully reduce the flooding.

Adjournment: B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 7:33pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder