

Town of Newington, NH  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 Via Zoom

Chair John Lamson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically.

**Present Via Zoom:** John Lamson, Chair, Brandon Arsenault, Vice-Chair, William Wright, Emily Savinelli, Jennifer Kent Weiner, Alan Wilson, Jamie Belanger, John Chamberlain, Ted Connors-Selectmen's Rep, Mike Marconi, Selectman, Ken Latchaw, Selectman, Len Thomas, Road Agent, Laura Coleman, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Kevin Kelley, Building Inspector, Paul Deschaine, Derrick Willson, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

**Minutes Approval:**

**B. Wright moved to approve the minutes of January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. J. Chamberlain seconded the motion.**

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Lamson-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, B. Wright-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Belanger-yes. All in favor.**

**Highway Budget Review:**

L. Thomas presented the Highway budget to the committee.

The 2021 budget is 21% lower than 2020 budget. The salt budget line decreased by \$44,000 and the Wilcox Way budget line decreased by \$75,000 because Wilcox Way was completed in 2020. The backhoe is scheduled to be replaced in 2021. The backhoe will be used by both the highway department and the transfer station. L. Thomas said that the department thought that the current backhoe would be used for 10 years and then ended up using it for 20 years. The department has received quotes for a new backhoe for around \$105,000. The department could purchase a used backhoe or lease one. A decision hasn't been made yet. The purchase of the backhoe will be a warrant article. J. Lamson asked if the new backhoe would be the same size as the old one. L. Thomas said that it would have a longer reach so they could load salt more easily into the trucks.

**J. Kent Weiner moved to tentatively approve the Highway budget of \$554,413. B. Wright seconded the motion.**

E. Savinelli asked what was included in the contracted services line. M. Roy said that it included the Eversource project of hiring an independent analysis of all the town roads after the project. Eversource will reimburse the town for the expense. E. Savinelli asked what the \$150,000 in the resurfacing line was used for. M. Roy said it was used for Newington's part of the Gosling Road resurfacing. The town had budgeted \$150,000 for the project which ended up being more than \$150,000. The remaining expense was taken out of the Major Roads capital reserve account. B. Arsenault asked why the additional expense wasn't taken out of the budget. M. Roy said that the Board was concerned about the budget at that point. The budget only allocated \$150,000 for the Gosling Road project. J. Kent Weiner asked why no crack sealing was done in 2020. M. Roy said that only health and safety projects were being completed. B. Arsenault asked if there is extra money in the 2021 budget for crack sealing. M. Roy said that the list of projects is listed in the budget. J. Kent Weiner asked what the equipment rental expense line would be used for. L. Thomas said that the department needed to rent a hammer drill to install the new school lights. J. Chamberlain asked if the McIntyre bridge gets inspected because Eversource was driving overweight trucks over it all last year. M. Roy said that the bridge is inspected by the state every year. E. Savinelli asked if the Town is bidding out the paving projects. M. Roy said that they are bid out in the spring.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Highway budget. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-Yes. All in favor.**

#### **Executive Office Budget Review:**

**B. Arsenault moved to tentatively approve the Executive Office budget of \$328,646. J. Belanger seconded the motion.**

The Executive Office 2021 budget is slightly less than 2020. The 2021 issues for the Town are the decreasing values of the utilities and the donor town issue. P. Deschaine has been hired to work on behalf of the town on the donor town issue. Funds have also been added to the budget to allow the executive office to tape meetings and have them available on the town website.

P. Deschaine explained that the State Education Commission was formed in the early part of 2020. The commission hired the American Institute for Research (AIR) to do a model for school funding in the state and the distribution formula to fund adequate education. The model showed that the average cost per

student in NH exceeds the national average, however the distribution of the funds is the problem. Some towns are exceeding the average and some towns are below the average. The more money spent on education the better the outcome. The average cost per student is approximately \$18,000. The model would suggest that Newington would have to raise \$8.6 million, keep \$1.4 million and turn over \$7.3 million to the state. If this model goes through then it would double the municipal budget and double Newington's taxes. J. Kent Weiner asked if the effect on Newington would be less because we send our students to Portsmouth. P. Deschaine said that the model has nothing to do with enrollments. J. Lamson said that this issue depends on the politics of the state. The worst-case scenario is unthinkable. B. Arsenault asked how this issue was affecting Greenland and Newfields. P. Deschaine said that 72 towns would become donor towns. T. Connors said that the Board of Selectmen have met with our representatives to express the town's concerns. P. Deschaine said that the coalition from 20 years ago is being reformed and will be hiring a lobbyist. B. Wright asked if the tuition students attending the Newington School could be charged more to offset this issue. J. Belanger pointed out that if \$7 million was added to the budget next year it would increase the budget by 100%.

E. Savinelli thought that the town shouldn't be paying someone to record the meetings and thought that the town employees just needed some training on how to record meetings instead of paying someone else \$6,000. J. Kent Weiner added that it wasn't hard to touch a bottom on an IPAD. B. Arsenault thought that it was throwing good money after bad. E. Savinelli pointed out the Samara Robertson has extensive knowledge of Zoom and could train the town employees. J. Kent Weiner said she couldn't support the \$6,000 to record meetings and said that we need to be as efficient as we can with our town staff. E. Savinelli asked about an update on the noxious fumes issue in town. M. Roy said that the EPA has asked Sprague to meet with the town to resolve this issue. E. Savinelli asked why the telephone expense line had increased. M. Roy said that a telephone upgrade was planned in 2021. The system would be similar to the Fire Department's. B. Arsenault asked how much the town hall pays for telephone service per month. M. Roy responded about \$175 a month. B. Arsenault thought that that number was way too high. J. Chamberlain said that commercial rates are much different than residential rates and thought \$175 wasn't too bad. J. Belanger thought that the town should put together a list of all the redundant monthly bills. B. Arsenault thought the town should get a voice over IP phone system. M. Roy said that is what is proposed. J. Kent Weiner asked what was included in the computer expense line. M. Roy said that the town is currently putting together an IT committee to go over the quotes for service. E. Savinelli asked why the Town Report line had decreased. M. Roy said that the town will be reducing the number of reports ordered.

**B. Arsenault moved to propose an amendment to the Executive Office budget to decrease the wages expense line by \$6,000. E. Savinelli seconded the motion.**

J. Lamson reminded the committee that they could only reduce the executive office overall budget by \$6,000. The committee couldn't reduce a specific expense line. J. Lamson suggested that the town ask for volunteers to do some of their work so the budget could be reduced.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the proposed amendment. T. Connors-no, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-abstain, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-Yes. Seven members in favor, one opposed and one abstained. The amendment passes.**

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Executive Office amended budget of \$322,646. T. Connors-no, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-Yes. Eight members in favor and one member opposed.**

#### **Town Clerk/Tax Collector Budget Review:**

**B. Arsenault moved to tentatively approve the Town Clerk/Tax Collector budget of \$100,594. E. Savinelli seconded the motion.**

L. Coleman presented the Town Clerk/Tax Collector budget to the committee.

L. Coleman said that 2020 was a brutal year for her office. They worked seven days a week for months. Doreen Caradonna, the deputy town clerk, is almost fully trained. L. Coleman would like to bring on a third person to start training them so L. Coleman can retire sometime in the near future. Training is extensive and includes vitals, registrations, taxes, dog licensing and the office may start boat registrations. B. Arsenault asked what the benefits would be with starting to do boat registrations. L. Coleman said it would just be an additional service for residents. E. Savinelli mentioned that she had attended a Board of Selectmen meeting where one of the Dock Masters indicated that boats that are kept at the Newington dock should have insurance. If the Town Clerks office registered boats it would be a good way to get the information about boat ownership and insurance. B. Arsenault said that it was hard to be fiscally responsible when the committee knows how hard L. Coleman works. The work in the Town Clerk office doesn't stop when the window is closed. The office registers over 25 fleets of vehicles for the commercial and industries in town. All this work is done after hours. L. Coleman is looking to increase her salary because she is on the lower end of town clerk/tax collector salaries in NH. J. Kent Weiner asked if she would be increasing the open hours for the town clerk. L. Coleman said that she

has increased her public hours to Tuesday – Thursday 9am-4:30pm. B. Arsenault asked if L. Coleman anticipated working more hours in 2021. L. Coleman thought that she would be working 40 hours a week in 2021. J. Chamberlain asked if the Town Clerk was an exempt position. L. Coleman said yes. B. Arsenault has a problem with a 40% increase in the budget when all the other departments are trying to cut back. L. Coleman said that over 9 million dollars of town money passes through her hands every year. J. Kent Weiner asked what other town clerks, in similar population towns in NH, get paid. L. Coleman read a list of Town Clerk's salaries in towns with 5,000 or less population. All get paid more and many also have benefits. J. Kent Weiner thought that the increase is necessary but thought that the increase could be given in smaller amounts over several years instead of the large increase proposed for 2021. J. Lamson mentioned that the job of town clerk is very complicated and far more complex than it used to be. L. Coleman said that when she started in 2012 vehicle registrations brought in \$277,000. In 2020 the number was \$460,000, a 68% increase in 8 years. B. Arsenault asked if the wage line could be decreased. L. Coleman thought that she could reduce the wage line by \$5,000 because she didn't plan on hiring the second person until the summer.

**J. Kent Weiner moved to propose an amendment to the Town Clerk/Tax Collector budget to decrease the wages expense line by \$5,000. A. Wilson seconded the motion.**

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the proposed amendment. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-Yes. All in favor.**

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Town Clerk/Tax Collector amended budget of \$95,594. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-no, J. Lamson-yes. Eight members in favor, one member opposed, the budget passes.**

#### **Town Buildings Admin Budget Review:**

**J. Belanger moved to tentatively approve the Town Buildings budget of \$35,823. E. Savinelli seconded the motion.**

J. Belanger asked about the contracted services expense line. M. Roy said that the line was over spent because of the extra cleaning needed because of Covid. E. Savinelli pointed out that the town spent \$12,648 in 2020, but only budgeted \$11,000 in 2021, is that enough. M. Roy believes it is enough for 2021.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Town Buildings budget. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-Yes. All in favor.**

**Code Enforcement Budget Review:**

**J. Belanger moved to tentatively approve the Code Enforcement budget of \$137,056. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion.**

K. Kelley presented the Code Enforcement budget to the committee.

E. Savinelli asked about the contracted services expense line and asked if \$2,000 was needed in that line. K. Kelley explained that he uses an engineering consultation service to go over septic designs and to conduct test pits for septic services. B. Arsenault asked how often K. Kelley uses the electric and plumbing contractors that are paid stipends by the town. K. Kelley explained that they are on an “on call” basis. It could be 3 or 4 times a week or none. K. Kelley said that he couldn’t do his job without them and it is important to have experts inspecting gas and electricity for safety reasons. K. Kelley would like to see their yearly stipend raised to \$10,000 sometime in the future. B. Arsenault asked what the revenue was in 2020. K. Kelley said \$217,000. B. Arsenault asked if K. Kelley thought the fees were fair. K. Kelley thought that they should be reassessed in the next couple of years, but feels that right now they are good. J. Chamberlain asked how many permits were issued in 2020. K. Kelley said that 220 were applied for and 213 were issued. B. Wright asked if the fees could be increased 3-5%. K. Kelley wants to make sure that higher prices don’t discourage people from getting permits.

K. Kelley thanked the Fire Department for all their help with inspections in the industrial area.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Code Enforcement budget. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-Yes. All in favor.**

**Land Management Budget Review:**

**J. Kent Weiner moved to tentatively approve the Land Management budget of \$72,801. J. Belanger seconded the motion.**

M. Roy pointed out that the Care of Tress expense line had increased to \$20,000 and the Portable Bathrooms line had increased because Dave's Septic was bought and the new company doubled their monthly rental rates.

**B. Arsenault moved to propose an amendment to decrease the Land Management budget by \$6,500. The Care of Trees expense line by \$5,000 and the Portable Bathroom expense line by \$1,500. E. Savinelli seconded the motion.**

J. Lamson reminded the committee that they could only reduce the land management overall budget by \$6,500. The committee couldn't reduce specific expense lines.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the proposed amendment. T. Connors-no, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. Eight in favor and one opposed. The amendment passes.**

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Land Management amended budget of \$66,301. T. Connors-no, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-Yes. Eight in favor and one opposed. The budget passes.**

#### **Finance/Assessing Budget Review:**

**J. Kent Weiner moved to tentatively approve the Finance/Assessing budget of \$135,912. E. Savinelli seconded the motion.**

The Finance/ Assessing 2021 budget is 59% less than the 2020 budget.

E. Savinelli asked why the wages line was overspent in 2020. M. Roy said that the Assessing Assistant was a new position in 2020 and the amount for wages was an estimate. The town used to contract out these services and decided to do the work in house to save money. J. Kent Weiner asked about the Tax Map Update expense. M. Roy explained that the maps were updated to include the Eversource right of ways. The grant line increased because of the LED light conversion grant. If the town doesn't get the grant then the money goes back into the general fund.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Finance/Assessing budget. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

### **Legal Budget Review:**

**J. Kent Weiner moved to tentatively approve the Legal budget of \$95,005. B. Wright seconded the motion.**

E. Savinelli asked if the employee settlement was a one-time expense. M. Roy said yes. B. Arsenault asked if the general legal services budget line would be used for all the other departments. M. Roy said yes.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Legal budget. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

### **Transfer Station Budget Review:**

**E. Savinelli moved to tentatively approve the Transfer Station budget of \$92,346. A. Wilson seconded the motion.**

M. Roy said that the 2021 was a little bit higher than the 2020 budget. There were more hauls in 2020 due to everyone being home and cleaning out their homes and yards. J. Lamson mentioned that recycling was not as profitable as it used to be. J. Belanger asked about the proposed compactor to reduce costs. M. Roy said that Craig Daigle decided not to purchase the compactor at this time because it would not be fiscally smart because the transfer station does not have three phase power that is needed to run the compactor. M. Roy said that EcoMaine Collects paper and plastic and charges the town. This is a new fee for recycling.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Transfer Station budget. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

### **Residential Waste Budget Review:**

**B. Arsenault moved to tentatively approve the Residential Waste budget of \$93,436. E. Savinelli seconded the motion.**

No discussion.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Residential Waste budget. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**



### **Elections Budget Review:**

**E. Savinelli moved to tentatively approve the Elections budget of \$7,849. B. Arsenault seconded the motion.**

There is only one election in 2021. B. Arsenault asked why the printing expense line was \$500 in 2019 and is now \$2,000 in 2021. M. Roy said that she would find out. J. Lamson suggested that it be researched further and the committee could vote on the budget now and review it again at the budget public hearing.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Elections budget. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

### **Insurance Budget Review:**

**E. Savinelli moved to tentatively approve the Insurance budget of \$282,551. B. Arsenault seconded the motion.**

B. Arsenault asked if any money had been moved out of these accounts. M. Roy said no. The town received credits during 2020. We may receive credits in 2021, but won't find out for a couple of months.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Insurance budget. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

### **Regional Associations Budget Review:**

**E. Savinelli moved to tentatively approve the Regional Associations budget of \$48,405. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion.**

E. Savinelli asked why nothing had been paid out yet this year. M. Roy said that everything would be paid out over the next two weeks. B. Arsenault said that there was never a more valuable time for these charities. J. Kent Weiner said that she wasn't a fan of the increase in the COAST donation.

**B. Arsenault moved to propose an amendment to decrease the Regional Associations budget to \$44,331. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion.**

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the proposed amendment. T. Connors-no, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-Yes. Eight members in favor, one opposed. The amendment passes.**

**J. Chamberlain moved to propose an amendment to zero out all expense lines except the COAST donation line. B. Arsenault seconded the motion.**

J. Chamberlain doesn't think that the taxpayer money should be spent on charities. B. Arsenault agrees with J. Chamberlain's thoughts. E. Savinelli pointed out that she has read studies about using taxpayer's dollars to reduce long term effects on the town. The studies say that for every \$1 a town spends on a charity they receive \$4 back in the future. These charities are doing important work in our community. J. Belanger thought that both arguments made sense. J. Lamson pointed out that since colonial times, towns have been responsible for their needy.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the proposed amendment. T. Connors-no, J. Belanger-no, E. Savinelli-no, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-no, J. Kent Weiner-no, B. Wright-no, B. Arsenault-no, J. Lamson-no. One member in favor, eight members opposed. The amendment fails.**

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Regional Associations amended budget of \$44,331. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

#### **Street Lighting Budget Review:**

**E. Savinelli moved to tentatively approve the Street Lighting budget of \$16,500. J. Belanger seconded the motion.**

No discussion.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Street Lighting budget. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

#### **Pest Control Budget Review:**

**E. Savinelli moved to tentatively approve the Pest Control budget of \$38,000. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion.**

E. Savinelli asked if the town could look into an alternative way to control mosquitos, a process that was more environmentally friendly. M. Roy will look into it.

M. Roy said that the town didn't spend all the funds in 2020 because there were no special events that would require extra spraying. B. Wright said that the drought also reduced the amount of spraying that was needed.

**B. Arsenault moved to propose an amendment to decrease the Pest Control budget to \$32,250. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion.**

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the proposed amendment. T. Connors-no, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-Yes. Eight members in favor, one opposed. The amendment passes.**

J. Kent Weiner asked when the last time pest control was bid out. M. Roy said three years ago. It is scheduled to be bid out in the Spring. J. Belanger suggested that the town ask an entomologist from UNH to help the town analyze our pest control. M. Roy said that she has consulted with the State specialists. T. Connors thought that controlling mosquitos was important considering the many diseases they carry. E. Savinelli asked that when the Town bids out the services that they consider alternate methods.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Pest Control amended budget of \$32,250. T. Connors-no, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-no, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-no, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-no. Five members in favor, four against. The budget passes.**

#### **Health Budget Review:**

**J. Kent Weiner moved to tentatively approve the Health budget of \$1. E. Savinelli seconded the motion.**

No discussion.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Health budget. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

#### **Welfare Budget Review:**

**J. Belanger moved to tentatively approve the Welfare budget of \$10,000. E. Savinelli seconded the motion.**

In 2020 the Town expended \$11,980 out of this account. It is a state law to fund residents that can't meet their basic necessities.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Welfare budget. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-no, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. Eight members in favor and one opposed. The budget passes.**

#### **Debt Services Budget Review:**

**E. Savinelli moved to tentatively approve the Debt budget of \$111,344. B. Arsenault seconded the motion.**

The Coakley Landfill expenses increase every year. T. Connors attends all the meetings to monitor the events, but when the EPA orders the group to do more testing than the costs are passed along to the towns. Coakley is a pit that the town is never going to get out of. Every town that dumped into the superfund site is responsible for a portion of the expenses.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Debt budget. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

#### **Capital Outlay Budget Review:**

**B. Arsenault moved to tentatively approve the Capital Outlay budget of \$92,500. A. Wilson seconded the motion.**

E. Savinelli asked if the Fire Station addition was completed. M. Roy said that it is almost complete. The company is working on a punch list now. B. Arsenault asked if the addition included the proposed bathrooms. E. Hoyt said the addition was just the negative pressure room. M. Roy said that the bathrooms and bunk room were in the 2021 budget. The cost for the addition came in more than anticipated so some projects were delayed until 2021. E. Hoyt said the bunk room would be done in house. T. Connors thanked the Fire Department for all their work on the project. E. Savinelli asked what the \$70,000 in the Fire Station 2021 budget would be used for. M. Roy said window sills and sashes, the bathroom reno, the asbestos tile removal, the second-floor addition plans. J. Kent Weiner suggested that the town hire a project manager for this. M. Roy said that the building inspector is on top of the asbestos issue. It has been contained but not yet removed. E. Hoyt said that K. Kelley has been doing a good job monitoring this.

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote on the Capital Outlay budget. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-yes. All in favor.**

The next Budget Committee meeting is Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:30pm.

The School budget and warrant articles will be reviewed.

B. Arsenault pointed out that the committee has found \$50,000 in savings. That represents a 5 million valuation at a \$10 tax rate.

**B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 9:18pm. J. Belanger seconded the motion.**

**J. Lamson called for a roll call vote. T. Connors-yes, J. Belanger-yes, E. Savinelli-yes, J. Chamberlain-yes, A. Wilson-yes, J. Kent Weiner-yes, B. Wright-yes, B. Arsenault-yes, J. Lamson-Yes. All in favor.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Eleanor Boy  
Recorder**