

**Bow Budget Committee Meeting
Municipal Office Building, Room B
January 12, 2023 Minutes**

Budget Committee members present:

Mark Zerba, Char; Jennifer Strong-Rain (School Board Rep.), Vice-Char.; Chris Nicolopoulos (Select Board Alternate); Jeff Knight; Andrew Mattiace; Brock Ehlers.

Members absent:

Ben Kiniry, Bob Blanchette

Staff present:

David Stack, Town Manager; Geoff Ruggles, Finance Director

I. Call to Order

Chairman Zerba called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

II. Town Budget Review

Chairman Zerba asked if the Committee they would like to vote on the recommended changes all together at the end. The Committee agreed and began reviewing the budget by sections.

a. Administration

After reviewing the Administration budget, a recommendation was made to increase the Employee Recognition account (4155-0-681) to \$2,500.

b. Assessing/Community Development

After reviewing the Assessing and Community Development budgets, the Committee made no changes.

c. Elections

After reviewing the Elections budget, the Committee made no changes.

d. Emergency Management

After reviewing the Emergency Management budget, the Committee made no changes.

e. Facilities

After reviewing the Facilities budget, a recommendation was made to increase the DPW Building Projects account (4194-3-435) to \$16,000.

f. Finance/Technology

After reviewing the Finance and Technology budgets, the Committee made no changes.

g. Fire Department

After reviewing the Fire Department budget, the Committee made no changes.

h. Heritage/Human Services

After reviewing the Heritage Commission and Human Services budgets, the Committee made no changes.

i. Library

After reviewing the Library budget, the Committee asked to meet with the Library Trustees and request they reduce their COLA to 3% to match the Selectmen's reduction and to reduce their overall budget to 5% or less.

j. Police Department

After reviewing the Police Department budget, a recommendation was made to decrease the Medical Services account (4210-5-530) to \$600.

k. Public Works

After reviewing the Public Works budget, the Committee made no changes.

l. Town Clerk – Tax Collector

After reviewing the Tow Clerk – Tax Collector’s budget, the Committee made no changes.

m. Water/Sewer

After reviewing the Water and Sewer budgets, the Committee made no changes.

n. Capital Improvements

After reviewing the Capital Improvements budget, the Committee discussed a number of capital projects and made the following recommendations.

1. Increase the contribution to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund to \$180,000.
2. Increase the contribution to the Public Works Equipment Capital Reserve Fund to \$200,000.
3. Increase the contribution to the Recreation Improvements Capital Reserve Fund to \$40,000.

After some discussion, the Committee could not come to a consensus on the amount to recommend for Road Improvements.

o. Revenues

After reviewing the Revenue Estimates, the Committee made the following recommendations.

1. Increase the Motor Vehicle Registration to \$2,750,000.
2. Increase the Boat Registrations to \$4,000.
3. Increase the Interest on Deposits to \$125,000.

III. Recommendations

Chairman Zerba asked for a vote on all the recommend changes except for Road Improvements. The Committee approved the changes unanimously.

Chairman Zerba polled the Committee members on an amount for Road Improvements. The majority of the Committee recommended \$570,000.

IV. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Ruggles, Finance Director