



# TOWN OF BOW

## Budget Committee

10 Grandview Road, Bow, New Hampshire 03304

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## Bow Budget Committee Minutes - Town Budget Approved Minutes January 19, 2023

Mark Zerba, Chair	P	Brock Ehlers	P
Jennifer Strong-Rain, Vice Chair	P	Andrew Mattiace	P
Jeffrey Knight, Secretary	P	Ben Kiniry	P
Christopher Nicolopoulos (Selectman)	P	Robert Blanchette	P
Library Director Martin Walters	P	Bob Arnold, Trustee Chair	P
Eric Anderson, Trustee Treasurer	P	Jennifer Warburton, Trustee Secretary	P

\* P = Present; A = Absent

### I. Call to Order

Chair Zerba called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

### II. Baker Free Library Budget Discussion

Library Director Martin Walters, Board of Trustees Chair Bob Arnold, Trustee Treasurer Eric Anderson and Trustee Secretary Jennifer Warburton were present to discuss the library budget. Library Director Walters gave a summary of the reductions he had made to some line items based on input from the Finance Director and Budget Committee.

Reductions were made to full-time and part-time salaries and related benefits, vacation coverage, grounds maintenance, equipment repair, collection development and supplies. The Subtotal of the Operating Budget is now \$117,810 and the Total Library Budget is \$617,323, down from \$624,785.

Library Director Walters stated that as of the December 31, 2022 bank statement, there was a balance of \$175,386 in their account. The Trustees have earmarked \$100,000 for landscape architectural to complete the front area. They will also encumber \$44,500 for a generator which is one of the requirements of becoming a community emergency shelter. The other half of the generator cost will be covered by a grant. Available balance in the account is then \$31,386.

Jennifer Strong-Rain wanted to make sure the library would still be able to function and offer its normal services with the reductions made to the budget. Director Walters said their custodian was retiring in May and this budget was based on re-hiring the position. The Trustees are looking into outsourcing the custodial functions. It is also expected that passport sales will be increasing. The Budget Committee thanked the Library Director and Trustees for attending.

### **III. Town budget Discussion**

Jennifer Strong-Rain mentioned some town employees expressed to her they haven't had a say about cuts in the town budget. There was some conversation about whether the Board of Selectmen cut too much from the budget. Jeff Knight said he would hate to lose employees because the wages weren't competitive. Finance Director Ruggles agreed this was a very lean budget and he did reach out to department heads. After this budget, the obligation to Eversource (PSNH) will be over. Selectman Nicolopoulos confirmed that the Board of Selectmen had not gone to the department heads to ask them how they felt about the cuts. Jeff Knight suggested it might be a good idea to talk with them.

Selectman Nicolopoulos will present the Budget Committee edits to the Select Board at their next meeting.

### **IV. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Committee, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn.

#### **Motion:**

Jeff Knight moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM. Bob Blanchette seconded. Sending no further discussion, the Chair called for a vote.

Motion carried 8-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gilman, Recording Secretary