

# **Town of Danbury**

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES- DRAFT**

**Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> , 2024, 6:30 PM**

**Members present:** Lenny Ryan-Chair, Ashlynn Comeau-Co-Chair, Anna Hullinger, Jessica Hatch, Tracy Feinauer, James Phelps, Bree Huntoon.

Also Attending, Maggi Winn, Karen Padgett, Chief Kelby.

Chairmen Lenny Ryan opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m

A motion was made by Anna Hullinger to approve the November 14th, 2024 minutes, motion was seconded by Jim Phelps. Motion approved 7-0.

The committee discussed covering the overall budget and discussing what was presented rather than voting. This is due to the school being late and not knowing the proposed tax rate.

Discussion on the executive budget concluded that the changes were mostly due to a raise for the Administrative Assistant.

Increase in Town Clerk/Tax Collector line is mostly due to wages. Discussion of the mortgage research line, and why that line decreased. \$50 was put in as none was used prior year, but further discussion will be had with those in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector on this line.

There is a decrease in the Election Supervisor Wages/Moderator Salary due to there being less elections this year.

Increase in the benefits budget is due to the proposed full time Police Chief being presented. This would be an increase in retirement because it is required for the town to pay into the State of NH Retirement System. Additionally, an additional person is required to be budgeted for in the Health Insurance line.

There was discussion around the building maintenance line, and what had been done this year. This included the chimney at Town Hall and surrounding roof, replaced the security systems in the highway garage, fixed the security systems in Town Hall and DCC, fixed the toilet at the library, and installed a mini-split at the highway dept to help mitigate the mold. Plans for next year include many repairs to the DCC, the Town Hall, and potentially new roofs for the highway and fire department.

Next to be discussed was the police department budget, which increased due creating a full time Police Chief position. Other increases were due to bettering the technology and systems the police department leverages to operate.

There was discussion on the increase of the ambulance line from \$67,125 to \$136,428. This is due to contract increases with the Bristol Fire Department. These increases are due to the need for an additional ambulance and additional personnel to keep up with the call volumes.

The next discussion was on the Highway Department. The first part, increases were mostly due to the increases in wages for the entire crew. There was discussion surrounding the vehicle repair line, how there were issues with some of the trucks to cause it to go over, and the work that still needs to be done to the trucks this year. There was discussion on the increase in mileage reimbursement, but that was due to the town pick-up being in the shop for over a month.

Then on the second position of the Highway Department budget, there was discussion on the paving/hot top line. This was a quote from GM based on the projects suggested, which were paving Eastern District, a top coat on School Pond, and redoing the apron at the end of Old Turnpike Rd.

Next was the Dump Budget, which increased due to wages and a contract renewal.

The committee closed up by discussing the following budget meeting dates of December 12th and 19th.

Chairmen Lenny Ryan adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Ashlynn Comeau, Co-Chair*