

Town of Danbury

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES- DRAFT

Thursday, December 12th , 2024, 6:30 PM

Members present: Lenny Ryan-Chair, Ashlynn Comeau-Co-Chair, Anna Hullinger, Jessica Hatch (6:55pm), Tracy Feinauer, James Phelps, Bree Huntoon.

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

Chairmen Lenny Ryan called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. on December 12th, 2024. There were no new meeting minutes to be presented.

It was discussed that the committee would proceed to review each department and vote to approve department by department, unless a certain line item needed further discussion.

A motion was made by Anna Hullinger to approve the executive budget amount recommended by the selectmen of \$72,425. This motion was seconded by Bree Huntoon. Lenny Ryan abstained from voting on this department. The executive budget was approved 4-0-3.

The next line to be discussed was the Town Meeting Moderator, Printing, and Reporting lines. A motion was made by Lenny Ryan to accept the \$1,900 recommended by the selection. This motion was seconded by Anna Hullinger. These lines were approved 5-0-2.

The next line to be discussed was the town clerk/tax collector budget. The requested amount was \$61,340 and the selectmen recommended \$60,890. The difference was wage increases and a decrease in mortgage research fees. A motion was made by Jessica Hatch to approve the selectmen's recommendation of \$60,890 and was seconded by Lenny Ryan. Motion approved 5-0-2.

A motion was made to accept the election budget of \$1,151 as recommended by the selectmen by Ashlynn Comeau, seconded by Anna Hullinger. Motion was passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Lenny Ryan to accept the Trustees budget of \$481 as recommended by the selectmen, and was seconded by Anna Hullinger. Motion was passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Jessica Hatch to approve the Auditor's Salaries of \$1,000 as recommended by the selectmen, and was seconded by Bree Huntoon. Motion was passed 3-0-4. Ashlynn Comeau and Anna Hullinger abstained as they are the auditors.

A motion was made by Lenny Ryan to approve the Treasurer budget of \$4,100, as recommended by the selectmen, and was seconded by Anna Hullinger. Motion passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Lenny Ryan to approve the Budget Committee budget of \$75, as recommended by the selectmen, and was seconded by Ashlynn Comeau. Motion passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Anna Hullinger to approve the Assessors budget of \$19,750, as recommended by the selectmen, and was seconded by Ashlynn Comeau. Motion passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Ashlynn Comeau to approve the Legal Expenses budget of \$10,000, as recommended by the selectmen, seconded by Lenny Ryan. Motion was passed 5-0-2.

Discussion was made about the employees benefit section, which increased to \$170,230 to budget retirement and health insurance for a full time police chief. It is required to pay into State Retirement for a full time police chief. Line was tables for a vote until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Lenny Ryan to approve the Planning Board budget of \$2,450, as recommended by the selectmen, and was seconded by Bree Huntoon. Motion was passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Lenny Ryan to approve the Zoning Board's budget of \$800, as recommended by the selectmen, and was seconded by Ashlynn Comeau. Motion was passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Jessica Hatch to approve the Government Building Maintenance budget of \$34,350, as recommended by the selectmen, and seconded by Anna Hullinger. Motion was passed 5-0-2.

Lenny Ryan abstained from the following cemetery budget. A motion was made by Anna Hullinger to approve the cemetery budget of \$20,000, as recommended by the selectmen, seconded by Bree Huntoon. Motion was passed 4-0-3.

A motion was made to approve the Property Insurance budget by Anna Hullinger for \$41,100, as recommended by the selectmen, and seconded by Ashlynn Comeau. Motion was passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Lenny Ryan to approve Lake's Reg Planning, Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid, Community Action Program, and Kearsarge COA for \$31,400, as recommended by the selectmen, and motion seconded by Ashlynn Comeau. Motion passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Jessica Hatch to approve Gas and Tax Mapping budget of \$8,500, as recommended by the selectmen, and seconded by Bree Huntoon. Motion passed by 5-0-2.

Police Department budget was tabled until the next meeting for further discussion.

A motion was made by Jessica Hatch to approve the ambulance service line of \$136,428, as recommended by the selectmen, and seconded by Anna Hullinger. Discussion was had on why it

increased significantly, and it was because of Bristol's response to needing a second ambulance and more employees to help with coverage volumes. Motion was passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Lenny Ryan to approve the Fire Department budget of \$69,981, as recommended by the selectmen, and seconded by Jessica Hatch. Motion approved 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Anna Hullinger to approve the Emergency Management line of \$10,150, as recommended by selectmen, and seconded by Ashlynn Comeau. Discussion was had on why the line increased and it was due to the emergency management plan needing to be redone this year. Grant was received to cover 75%, but cost needs to be provided up front. Motion passed 5-0-3.

A motion was made by Lenny Ryan to approve the Forest Fire budget of \$3,000, as recommended by the selectmen, and seconded by Ashlynn Comeau. Motion passed 5-0-2.

The Highway Department budget was tabled for the following meeting.

A motion was made by Anna Hullinger to approve the Municipal Street Lighting line of \$5,000, as recommended by the selectmen, and seconded by Bree Huntoon. Motion passed 5-0-2.

For the Dump budget, a motion was made by Anna Hullinger to reduce the Site Maintenance line from \$3,000 to \$1,000 and seconded by Bree Huntoon. Motion passed 5-0-2. The remaining Dump budget was tabled until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Lenny Ryan to approve the Lakes Region VNA, Lake Sunapee VNA, Mid-State Health Center, and CASA of NH for \$7,525, as recommended by the selectmen, and seconded by Bree Huntoon. Motion passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Lenny Ryan to approve the Welfare and General Assistance Budget of \$6,000, as recommended by the selectmen, and seconded by Ashlynn Comeau. Motion passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Bree Huntoon to approve \$21,900 for the TTCC, REC Park Electric, Mowing, and REC Park Maintenance, as recommended by the selectmen, and seconded by Ashlynn Comeau. Motion passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Lenny Ryan to approve the Library budget of \$16,685, as recommended by the selectmen, and seconded by Ashlynn Comeau. Motion passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Lenny Ryan to approve Flags and Markers and Old Home Day budget of \$700, as recommended by the selectmen, and seconded by Bree Huntoon. Motion passed 5-0-2.

A motion was made by Anna Hullinger to reduce the line for the Danbury Community Center to \$25,000 from the proposed \$35,000, motion was seconded by Bree Huntoon. Motion failed 2-5.

It was decided that the line for the Danbury Community Center and Historical Society will be discussed the following week in hopes that Kendra will be able to provide more information on the DCC budget.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:50 p.m. by Lenny Ryan. Motion seconded by Ashlynn Comeau. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Ashlynn Comeau, Co-chair