

TOWN OF WILLIAMSTOWN
WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD BUDGET MEETING

October 19, 2022 – TOWN HALL

Present: Jasmin Couillard, Clayton Woodworth, Chris Peloquin, Rodney Graham, Chris Wade

Town Manager, Jackie Higgins

Call to Order - Jasmin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Set the Agenda – Jasmin added the Storage Unit Discussion to the agenda. Chris P. made the motion to approve the agenda with the adjustment. Chris W. seconded.

Selectboard Announcements: Chris P. asked if the Selectboard was adding the letter from the Town Manager. Jackie stated that the letter would be reviewed in Executive Session.

Review of Open Public Comments

Public Announcements – None

Approve Warrants & Selectboard Meeting Minutes: Payroll 10/09/2022 & SB22014 – Rodney made the motion to approve the warrant and meeting minutes. Chris W. seconded. Rodney questioned the overtime for the Town Manager. Jackie stated that when the Personnel Policy was changed by the Selectboard, she is now paid for 80 hours instead of the 83.5 hours she worked. So moved.

New Business:

Budgets

Cemetery - Rodney commented that the Cemetery and Library are no longer a part of the General Fund, so the Selectboard should not have to vote to approve their budgets. Chris P. stated he has not seen documentation that the Library has been taken out of the General Fund. Jasmin stated that 3 of the current Selectboard members voted to remove the Library from the General Fund. Jackie asked Helen (Duke) if the Library was going to request a special article. Helen, yes we will be. Clayton responded that he would like to proceed with hearing the purposed budget.

John Perkins of the Cemetery Board discussed request for \$2000 more from the town. West Hill Cemetery has research needs, plant/fence repairs, replacement of missing/broken stones, mowing costs & ledge.

Current/Ongoing projects: West Hill Stone Cleaning, East Hill Stone Cleaning, Village Stone Cleaning, Village Cemetery road repair, flag pole painting & solar lighting. Chris P. made the comment that the work in our cemetery has been great and looks really nice.

Library – Increases in Wages, Health Insurance, Fuel & Electricity. Jackie discussed the Bond information being included in the Town Report. Chris P. mentioned the importance of being transparent with all funds. Sarah gave a round about figure of amount of bonds investment bonds \$101,113.70.

Highway – Road Foreman, David Wilder reported on the budget. Each line was carefully evaluated and adjusted according to needs of the Highway Department. The State is requiring more permits, truck budget, fuel costs, phone bill. Highway building phone bill transferring to Sepctrum. Garage Water & Sewer budget lowered. Rodney expressed concern for the fuel budget. Jackie reassured that the contracted price for fuel rate wouldn't change. Rodney questioned if the Highway Department planned on any large purchases this year. Jackie mentioned a Roadside Mower, also a grant for a leaf blower. Chris P. questioned the increase on the phone line. Requested a lower price plan for the cell phone.

Water & Sewer – Jackie reported the Water budget will be similar to previous years. Hydrant replacement expenses raised. Sewers propane budget increased. Phone for building being switched from Windstream to Spectrum with pricing requested for new lines. Chemical pricing has increased as well and supply budget has increased. Water & Sewer bonds voted on by the town. Chris P. suggested that it should not be referred to as an Enterprise Fund.

Graniteville Swale Project Bids – Chris P. made the motion to select Avery Excavation for \$7,420.00. Clayton seconded. So moved.

Storage Unit – Jackie purposed renting a storage unit for the Restored Clock. The unit would be secured before the new Truck for the Fire Department and Halloween festivities start. Jackie purposed also purchasing a 20 Foot Storage unit from Bulldock Auto Salvage. Rental fee of \$17 per month with an upfront payment of \$445.00. One time purchase price \$5,700. Jackie mentioned that the Highway Garage Reserve Fund could purchase it, so that it could also be utilized for storage once the Town Garage is built. Clayton made the motion to purchase the new unit. Chris W. seconded. So moved.

Around the Table

Chris W. will be out of town for the next meeting.

Chris P. discussed the Water Meter Reader, The Selectboard approved \$2,500 annually for software updates and support. Chris P. suggested the Selectboard take a closer look at the contract with Simon with the contract cost and fees to be reevaluated. Chris P. made the motion to approve the contract review. Clayton seconded. So moved.

Chris P. requested the Friends of the Fire Department be added to the budget.

Chris P. made the motion to take a 5 minute recess at 8:07 pm and Chris W. seconded. So moved.

Executive Session – Chris P. made the motion to enter into at 8:12 pm Executive Session. Chris W. seconded.

Chris P. made the motion to exit Executive Session at 10:30pm . Chris W. seconded. No action taken.

Adjourn Chris P. made the motion to adjourn at 10:30pm. Chris W. seconded. So moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Keys

Jasmin Couillard

Clayton Woodworth

Chris Peloquin

Rodney Graham

Chris Wade