

Budget Advisory Committee
Minutes
September 27, 2023

Present: Gary Scholl, Bill Ezell, Peer Allen, Gail Cromwell, Tim Fiske, Ken Caisse, Robert Kenney

Absent: Mike Darnell

Chairman Scholl called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

The Minutes of August 24 were approved with one change to clarify the Highway Department situation. The Minutes of September 13 were approved with one correction to a number. The correct number is \$1,709,407 for the year end General Fund balance.

Bill presented the requested budget numbers for the select board for 2024. The principal reduction was to the contingency line. The 2023 number had to include the refund of legal fees to Ben Fisk of approximately \$13,000. Foreseeing no comparable problem for 2024 the budget was dropped to \$1000 for contingency. Professional services was decreased from \$2000 to \$1000. Website administration (Civic plus) was estimated to go up by 5%. Questions were raised regarding the printing and advertising expense and that the printing of the town annual report is not showing up in the correct line for it. Only approximately half is appearing there. Bill promised to look into it.

Legal fees should remain at the current \$30,000 for the town attorney.

Painting of the Town Hall is scheduled for 2024 with 3 sides to be done. The Town Hall Committee is working to get estimates. Painting of the town office building is also needed and Ken Caisse will contact LaSalle about an estimate. LaSalle does the Town Hall painting. Custodial services can be reduced from \$10,000 to \$5,000. Ballfield repairs from \$1000 to \$500. Other Town Property Electric will be raised from \$550 to \$700.

A question arose about whether the supervisors of the checklist are considered election workers and therefore exempt from the social security deductions. Gail to investigate.

The budget for the Village Green Committee was presented next with the same numbers requested for next year. Because of the weather, not all of the budget will be spent for 2023 and will be available as surplus. The Committee was pleased that an anticipated demise of one tree on the common did not occur but the committee always budgets for replacing one tree per year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully,
Gail Cromwell