

Budget Committee Minutes

4:30pm Tuesday, March 28th, 2017, Vinalhaven Town Office

Present

Andy Dorr, Jocelyn McLean, Holly Sault (via telephone), Janann Sherman, Gabe McPhail, Eric Davis, Delwyn Webster, Bill Alcorn, Dan Bickford, David Brown

Minutes

The minutes were not available to be reviewed. They will be discussed at the next meeting.

Section Review & Discussion

1. Cemeteries

Discussion- Service fees are down; Andy proposes moving the mowing of the cemetery to the Public Works department. The cemetery committee met, however, and feel strongly that there should be a dedicated cemetery person, and not someone from public works doing this job. Bill pointed out that the extra \$30,000 that the cemetery committee recommended would come out of the reserve. Eric noted that the cemetery committee thought it would be better to keep maintenance 'in house', and that if it is brought to public works that that person might be pulled in other directions and the mowing could get neglected.

Motion by Gabe to accept the cemetery committee's suggestion of \$62,500 for service fees. Second: Bill. Vote 6-0-0. Motion passed.

Delwyn made the suggestion to drop the supplies line down from \$1,000 to \$500. Eric noted that some cemeteries have supplies at them.

Motion by Gabe to accept the amended total amount of \$65,400. Second: Bill. Vote 6-0-0. Motion passed.

2. Public Works

Discussion- Eric brought in a page titled 'Food for Thought'. The paper outlines how while other department's budgets have gone up, public works has been reduced over time. It also notes that improvements have been done to other buildings and not the public works garage.

Andy discussed the short term annual goals and upcoming projects. There is so much that needs to be done on the roads and it's difficult or nearly impossible with only a three people. Andy's proposals include catching up on maintenance so we can get on a preventative schedule and creating the assistant foreman position. Gabe: So in order to justify this position you would need to cancel the cemetery contract? Andy: \$45,000 would be a lot to add to the budget, and public works has been scrutinized in the past, so my thought was if we could assume the mowing of all property and cemeteries it would be a way to minimize the financial implication.

Janann noted that Public Works needs help but not more jobs; she asked what the road commissioner does. Andy: day to day work plan, scheduling, coordinating winter clean-up.

Delwyn: Who is allowed to drive the plow trucks? Andy: Some trucks require drivers have to have a class B license and all trucks require employees are screened and given an overview of equipment. It's not just people off the street.

Delwyn noted that he would like to see some things contracted out rather than hire someone. The crew is overworked.

Eric: The idea of the assistant foreman is to have a smooth transition rather than wait for Carl to retire and have to advertise for the position and have someone completely new.

It was noted that the current foreman has grandfathered benefits, so the insurance line will decrease when he retires.

Andy mentioned that some plowing is subcontracted; some roads the town crew doesn't get to.

Andy mentioned that we're trying to get street sweeping & striping done before FY end.

There was explanation on the equipment repair which includes costs for grader repairs. Andy stated that he is supporting doing this repair; there was a lot done this year but still more to be done as many fittings have rusted. After catching up on overdue maintenance we should be back to a regular maintenance schedule.

Bill asked if the dump body ('00 8500) would be replaced this year. Andy: not this year; hoping to get one more year out of it before replacing the body.

Delwyn asked about what the gate and fence at Coot's lot. Andy explained that there is a lot of material there, and we need to come up with a better security system so it's not a free-for-all. Delwyn noted that he supports more security, and suggested putting in surveillance cameras.

Bill stated that he would be comfortable with \$3.00 per gallon of road fuel for a total of \$16,000 for that line. After being told how much had been spent on this through February of this year, the committee agreed to keep the line at the originally recommended \$18,000.

There was discussion about the cold patch amount. There was about \$14,000 used through February. Bill noted that the total amount budgeted is up from FY13 and FY14. Andy explained that we are using more now and the price is approximately \$40 higher per unit. Eric: this is a lot better patch than what has been previously used. Gabe, Janann and Holly agreed that they support the \$25,000 figure for the cold patch line.

Salt and sand is down from last year. Bill: Is the barge something that you'd be interested in doing again? Dan: Yes, it worked out nicely. It was noted that you can fit about of 330 yards a load on the barge, and that there has been a budgeted decrease from last year of about \$10,000.

PPE is up to \$1,250 from \$1,000 last year. In the winter there are upwards of 15-20 people on the payroll at times. After the safety audit the department has recognized the need to provide certain equipment for employees based on the task being performed.

Motion by Janann to accept the recommended amount of \$495,920.

Second: Gabe Vote: 5-1-0. Motion passed.

3. Next Weeks's Agenda

- * Capital Projects/ Reserve

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Adjourn

Motion by Gabe to adjourn the meeting at 6pm. Second: Eric. Vote: 6-0-0.
Motion passed.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 3rd at 4:30pm

Additional Notes: