

Budget Committee Minutes

5:00pm Wednesday, March 28th, 2018, Vinalhaven Town Office

Present- Andy Dorr, Gabe McPhail, Janann Sherman, Bill Alcorn, Margaret Qualey, Holly Sault, Jocelyn McLean , and Eric Davis. Lucy McCarthy was absent.

Minutes – Gabe noted that in the Public Works discussion it was also mentioned that one of the trailers at the Transfer Station could be used as storage.

Motion by Gabe to approve the minutes as amended from the March 21st meeting. **Second** by Janann. **Vote:** All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Section Review & Discussion

Social Security/Medicare – It was noted that this section is based on wages. **Motion** by Gabe to recommend the proposed amount of \$56,730. Second by Eric. **Vote:** All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Transfer Station- Increase of 26% proposed by department; increase of 17.6% proposed by manager. New equipment, jump in amount of waste that leaves the island & increase in ferry prices. There will be an \$8,000-\$10,000 difference in ferry tickets alone. Each trip costs about \$1,000 to take waste to the mainland.

Equipment is a difference of about \$8,000 between manager and department proposals. Andy is proposing less. Largest equipment costs proposed include rotating forks for the bobcat and chipper repair.

Purpose of forks is related to single-stream recycling; with the rotating forks, they can put Xactics in strategic locations to improve traffic flow at the Transfer Station and increase convenience. The Transfer Station Committee was willing to remove some other things from the budget to offset the cost of this- they believe this equipment is important for the successful implementation of Single Stream Recycling. It was noted there is \$10,000 in this budget for ash removal but could potentially take this out.

It was discussed that the opening for the container/hopper for single stream was designed so an Xactic could flip over into it; Gabe noted having an Xactic next to the Single Stream makes sense; it's an efficiency move as well as for the single stream machine itself.

There was a question about how single stream recycling works. There's a clear list of what is acceptable; metals, glass, plastics; you just drop everything into the hopper together, and it compresses it.

The market for recycling is relatively volatile. Right now there are tipping fees. Sometimes you get paid for recycling, sometimes you pay to do it. [If increase to 30% by year two, could save about 16k (clarification on this?)]. The more recycling increases, the more the town could save.

There was discussion about a plan for education and engaging people to recycle, then encouraging waste reduction. Eco Maine actually has an education staff member dedicated to this type of work.

Composting will be started the same time as single stream. Will have it accessible so people don't necessarily have to go when the Transfer Station is open.

The issue of cardboard was discussed; it is not allowed to be burned anymore- so has to be taken off island; this increases the amount of trips the Town has to pay for.

Discussion about tightening up collections; coming up with a system so there is no guessing- once there is better data collected, there can be changes made so it is more equitable.

Special waste costs between \$7,500 and \$10,000 per trip.

It was noted that it is unfortunate that the ferry price increases are occurring the same time as Single Stream is being implemented- people might associate the large cost increase with that and not the MSFS costs.

The convenience factor (and having the rotating forks to accomplish this) was discussed, and how important it is to attract more people to recycle.

The Committee agreed to recommend removing the chipper cost from the equipment sections (\$-2,800) for a new total of \$9,575, reducing Special Waste (is this Hazardous Waste? Ash?) to \$18,000, and reducing building improvements from \$15,000 to \$10,000.

There was discussion about the poor shape of the building and serious need for repairs.

There was a suggestion to use the Island Transporter instead of the ferry, if there is potential to reduce costs. A request was made to inquire about what they would be willing to offer for a contract price for waste removal.

Motion by Margaret to recommend the amended total amount of **\$433,910**. **Second** by Eric.
Vote: All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Capital Projects- Overall decrease in this section.

There was a question about sidewalks; there needs to be communication with the State to see what they would be willing to fund. Main St. is a state-aid road so the State will potentially fund 50% up to \$500,000. It is not in this budget but is on the radar.

Motion by Margaret to recommend the proposed amount of \$451,500. **Second** by Janann.

Vote: All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Agenda for next meeting

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 4th at 5:00pm. Topics to be discussed will include Planning and Community Development.

There was discussion to continue meeting to discuss community engagement strategies, suggestions to make changes to the Budget Committee Ordinance, as well as further discussing ways to make the committee process more efficient.

Adjourn

Motion by Gabe to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm. **Second** by Eric. **Vote:** All in favor. **Motion carried.**