

Budget Committee Minutes

4:30pm Monday, April 3rd, 2017, Vinalhaven Town Office

Present

Andy Dorr, Jocelyn McLean, Holly Sault, Margaret Qualey, Gabe McPhail, Eric Davis, Lucy McCarthy

Minutes

There were not enough committee members that were at the last two meetings present to approve the minutes from 3/27 & 3/28.

Section Review & Discussion

1. Capital Projects/Reserve

Discussion- In the fire truck fund, the jeep will need to be replaced soon. In the road repair line, Andy is proposing \$150,000 while eliminating the gravel roads and paving line. Margaret: does the state maintain state roads or is that left to the town to do? Andy: the state covers routine maintenance; we receive about \$18,000 a year for state roads, which is on a per-mile basis. They don't factor in the added island costs. The town receives about \$35,000 a year from the state for capital reserves which is a separate account. Margaret mentioned problem areas and the possibility of doing groundwork before repaving them, and engineering some roads differently so future problems could be avoided. Eric: the town solved some problems by putting in bigger culverts in certain areas. Lucy asked if there was a list of gravel roads for paving. Andy: no, haven't heard the selectmen mention it. The Carrying Place Bridge line has enough to carry the design & perhaps a partial 1st year's payment, so Andy is proposing not funding this this fiscal year. It was noted that this is not a state maintained road. Andy is proposing combining the Compactor reserve with the landfill equipment reserve, so we would not be funding the compactor reserve this year. Margaret asked about the school payment. Andy: the state funds the majority of it, but local payment is approximately \$700,000. It's due to be paid off in 2021. Andy: when we were going over debt service, it was mentioned that it is timely that these payments will be ending as new projects are coming up, so we can potentially shift those funds over. Andy is proposing reducing the sidewalk reserve to \$50,000; there is \$291,000 in the fund right now. The town will be looking at around 1 million for the project between Water & High St. Andy mentioned the MPI matching program. John is working on this and finding grants right now. Margaret asked about the

timeline for this project. Andy: Fiscal year 2020. Eric: We should consider fixing the existing sidewalks that are falling apart instead of putting in new ones. Lucy stated she is especially concerned with right in front of the Post Office. It's dangerous and she's afraid the town might get sued. Andy suggested possibly putting a crosswalk by the other side of the parking lot at Carver's to direct people that way. Historic sites projects coming up are the Civil War monument which needs a new fence, the bandstand needs new shingles, and potentially a new paint job. Also the wheel of the Galamander is splitting, and kids have been swinging on it which doesn't help the situation. It is a national historic monument. Lucy asked if the Historical Society could help with fundraising for some of the repairs. Andy: Potentially, once we know what needs to be done. I have been thinking about putting \$10,000 in this line next year knowing there will need to be work done in the future.

Motion by Lucy to raise the Historical Sites line by \$5,000 to a total of **\$10,000**. Second: Gabe. Vote 4-1-0. Motion passed.

Gabe noted that if we can't take care of these then maybe we shouldn't have them. They should be taken care of properly by someone who appreciates them. Margaret mentioned that she dislikes raising money through taxation before fundraising or looking for grants. Eric noted that these funds don't have to go all towards the Galamander; they can go towards any historic site.

Margaret asked how much of the transfer station costs are covered by fees. Andy: About half. Raising the fees for stickers from \$1.50 to \$2 is being discussed by the Solid Waste Committee. The selectmen are also looking at single stream recycling. The construction for new floats for the harbor was put out to bid, but there have been no bids yet. The fish plant wharf will also need new pilings sometime in the next ten years.

Motion by Lucy to recommend the amended amount of \$375,000. Second: Gabe. Vote 5-0-0. Motion passed.

2. Additional Discussion –

There was explanation about the budget appropriations page. Margaret: What does audit recommend having in fund balance? Andy: They recommend having three of the highest monthly annual payments, which would amount to 1.2 – 1.5 million.

Total expenditures are down about \$200,000. The estimated mil rate would be 11.55, up from 11.32. This fiscal year there is much less being taken out of fund balance.

There was discussion about potential ways to generate more income. Gabe mentioned fees from using the harbor, fees & fines from animal control, and the transfer station-tighter systems, infrastructure to support those systems, it being more uniform, people being held accountable, and new technology and use of debit/credit systems. Margaret noted the lack of personal property tax being levied, and stated she would rather see people pay while they are working and making money than burden those on fixed incomes.

Adjourn

Motion by Gabe to adjourn the meeting at 6:10pm. Second: Lucy. Vote: 5-0-0. Motion passed.

Additional Notes: There was agreement for the Committee to attend the Board of Selectmen meeting on Tuesday, April 18th at 6pm.