

# Budget Committee Minutes

5:00pm Wednesday, February 13th, 2019, Vinalhaven Town Office

**Present-** Andy Dorr, Tanya Robishaw, Bill Alcorn, Eric Davis, Ann Farley, Janann Sherman, Margaret Qualey, Lucy McCarthy, Holly Sault arrived at 5:15

**Minutes** – Approve minutes with the exception to amend first section wording- in reference to taxed items

*Corrected minutes from January 30, 2019:*

*“Opening discussion was on items that are associated with a business that can be taxed. Bill added non- taxed items would include anything used within a year such as nails, plywood, and screws. Leaving Machines and equipment to fall under taxed items, since they are used over time. It was noted that traps, even though plentiful on the island, are not included since traps depreciate and are harder to track to inventory. “*

**Motion** by Ann to accept the minutes from the January 30th meeting. **Second** by Lucy. **Vote:** All in favor; **Motion carried**

## Section Review & Discussion

**Administration-**Proposed total \$314,125 for administration budget. Lucy started discussion by inquiring about an increase in wages across the board. Andy proposed a 2.8% increase for wages, and stated that there are jobs that have gone from part time to full time causing an increase to show.

Lucy moved on to supplies, and why there was an increase. Andy explained that there is a need for at least four new office computers. The computers currently in use are dated and feeling the age. Bill wanted to know who currently handles computer work for town computers. Andy: An IT company in Portland handles that now. There is an allotment of 25 hours of time in which carries over if unused. Andy added there are levels of service available from monitoring all the time, or only when needed. Leaving the ability to call when needed- which is the current level of service used. Lucy inquired whether the computers were a long term outlook, or now basis. Andy stated this is a current plan- nothing concrete. Information is based on information given from IT about the level of speed on current computers, and the recommended time frame to replace computers. Current computers are pushing 8 years.

**Motion** by Bill to recommend the proposed amount of \$314,125. **Second** by Lucy. **Vote:** All in favor; **Motion carried**

**Assessor-** Lucy started discussion asking if there is any revenue for Assessor. Andy: Interest from taxes not paid is the only assessor related income-no fee for service. Ann inquired about lodging and meals if there is a plan to utilize. Andy: This is included as more of a contingency. Conferences and monthly meetings can often cause need for food and lodging. The money is there if needed.

Lucy inquired if 12 hours a week would be enough for the assessor. Andy: Yes- was 7-8 hours a month in the past.

Tax maps were last updated in 2014, and several parcels need to be updated. Money is available if Wes decided to take this on, or someone else.

**Motion** by Ann to move. **Second** by Janann. **Vote:** All in favor; **Motion carried**

**Legal/Professional Services-** There was discussion on current status of the John Steven's lawsuit, which started in 2011. Andy added the amount of money the town will receive depends on how long it takes Steven's to pay. Currently there is a mortgage lien against Mr. Steven's on island and in New Hampshire.

Bill inquired about current engineer services. Andy added currently Woodard & Curran is assisting with looking at the big picture for the town. Seems to be working in our favor, and looking out for the town's best interest. Woodard & Curran is also aggressive in looking for money for projects.

**Motion** by Janann to move. **Second** by Ann. **Vote:** All in favor; **Motion carried**

**Washington School-** There was discussion on the service fee decreases and increased supplies. Service fees were said to have decreased due to IT hours decreasing. The increase in supplies is due to chairs and tables in the meeting room needing to be replaced. There are cracks and breaks in the current ones. Could benefit from a new, lighter, and movable setup. The current chairs are also causing damage to the floors. Possibility of selling old ones to use money towards new.

Bill inquired about the increase in utility bills. The propane amount was a concern, and felt to be above average. Andy added the generator (propane run) is used for storms, and also runs on Thursdays for a short period of time.

Andy added there should be a bid on oil before the budget is out-currently at \$3.75 a gallon.

Discussion went on to the request for painting Bill added he would like to see the walkway and railings painted. Andy has talked to Hall painting and has estimates with detail available. The

estimate covers touch up on the meeting room, office wall from plant growth, and spot jobs on the building.

Committee requested waiting for more information on propane and price of oil before moving on Washington School.

**Motion** to table until next meeting February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Donations-** Questions arose on certain areas falling under donations, and why money was included in the budget for them.

**Motion** -The group agreed to table donations allowing time to read through the requests, and also revisit the agreed upon policy on donations.

**Town Property-** Bill asked why the significant change in the fire hall. Andy: Needs to be painted. The requested amount is \$16,500. The last time the fire hall was painted was in 2014. The whole building is in need of paint, due to current condition with chipping and peeling paint. Andy added the current paint is of a lower grade- cheaper and absorbs heat causing more damage. The new paint, that Hall's Painting provided an estimate for, is more durable and longer life span.

Indian Creek lease was discussed, stating Earl has new insurance policy with liability costs that he is requesting money towards. Eric added Earl has the ability, and will close the area to public if someone gets hurt. So coverage is needed. There was discussion on the condition on the bridge, and the material that has washed away. The bridge itself is in need of work- steps and risers.

Ann inquired about the parks committee projects. Andy: Pilot payments from land trust are used- not taxpayer's money.

Bill motion to move pending estimate for fire hall- felt to be too high. Andy has detailed estimate to provide next meeting.

**Social Security/ Medicare-** Concerns with the big increase started the conversation. Andy added the change in wages has increased due to workers going from part time to full time. The EMT director is now a full time job, animal control/ harbor master has increased. The amount included was said to not all be spent, but there if needed.

**Motion** by Lucy to move. **Second** by Janann. **Vote:** All in favor; **Motion carried**

**Agenda for Next Meeting:**

Next meeting will be on February 27, 2019 at 5:00PM. Meeting will focus on revisiting Washington School and Donations policy. New areas covered are CEO, Insurance, General Assistance, Library (with Scott present), and Cemetery.

**Meeting adjourned 6PM**