

BUDGET COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 15, 2022
DRAFT MINUTES

Chair Ginger Dole called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and opened the work session

PRESENT: Ginger Dole, Chair, Tom Chase, Vice Chair, Betsy Colburn, (participated electronically) Brad Hall, Tim Jandebaur, Michael Moore, Steve Robinson, Ted Wilkinson, Brian Winslow, School Board Rep, Betty Smith, Paul Tudor, Pam Sanderson, Jim Guzofski, Selectmen’s Rep, Bob Young, Water District Rep, Mike Jobin, Cove Village Rep. Eric Buckland, Gulf Village District Rep. (arrived at 6:15 PM)

Absent: Dan McNally

Betsy Colburn is not attending in person based on her doctor’s orders.

MINUTES:

January 12, 2022

Motion is made by P. Sanderson, seconded by T. Chase to approve the January 12, 2022 minutes as amended.

Ginger Dole, yes. Tom Chase, yes. Betsy Colburn, yes. Brad Hall, yes. Tim Jandebaur, yes. Michael Moore, yes. Betty Smith, yes. Paul Tudor, yes. Pam Sanderson, yes. Jim Guzofski, yes. Bob Young, yes. Mike Jobin, yes. Steve Robinson, yes. Brian Winslow, abstained, Ted Wilkinson, abstained. Eric Buckland, yes.

Motion carried by roll call vote 14/0/2

January 13, 2022

Motion is made by P. Sanderson, seconded by T. Chase to approve the January 13, 2022 minutes as amended.

Ginger Dole, yes. Tom Chase, yes. Betsy Colburn, yes. Brad Hall, yes. Tim Jandebaur, yes. Michael Moore, yes. Betty Smith, yes. Paul Tudor, yes. Pam Sanderson, yes. Jim Guzofski, yes. Bob Young, yes. Mike Jobin, yes. Steve Robinson, yes. Brian Winslow, yes, Ted Wilkinson, abstained. Eric Buckland, yes.

Motion carried by roll call vote 14/0/1

Work Session: Deliberative Session Results:

Chair Dole stated that the Selectmen amended the Budget Committee’s figure to \$3,998,864. Per the RSA, if a number is changed at the first session, the Budget Committee can take another vote to determine if they will recommend that number to the voters.

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Warrant Article 4: Operating Budget

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling three million nine hundred ninety-eight thousand eight hundred sixty-four dollars (\$3,998,864). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be three million seven hundred thirty-four thousand ninety-eight dollars (\$3,734,098) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Tax Impact Net of estimated revenue \$3.30) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0) (Not recommended by the Budget Committee 11/3)

T. Chase made a motion, seconded by M. Moore to vote again on Warrant Article 4: Operating budget, due to the change in the total at the Deliberative Session.

Ginger Dole, yes. Tom Chase, yes. Betsy Colburn, yes. Brad Hall, yes. Tim Jandebour, yes. Michael Moore, yes. Betty Smith, yes. Paul Tudor, yes. Pam Sanderson, yes. Jim Guzofski, yes. Bob Young, yes. Mike Jobin, yes. Steve Robinson, yes. Brian Winslow, yes, Ted Wilkinson, yes. Eric Buckland, yes.

Motion carried by roll call vote 16/0

B. Smith made a motion, seconded by T. Chase to recommend Article 4 as voted on at Deliberative Session.

Discussion:

Mr. Wilkinson stated that what he wants most of all is that the town does not end up with another default budget. He felt that they had given clear direction to the Selectmen to dial the budget back or they will get another default. They have an opportunity to revote, he certainly is not in favor of the higher number, but he would rather hold his nose and take it to not end up with another default budget.

Mr. Jandebour stated that he would like to say how sad he is about what the Select Board has done. If anyone had asked him prior to the deliberative he would have bet that they would not have done that. He is surprised and disappointed. In 2019, exactly 1,000 people in this town came out to vote on the budget. The difference was 487 yes, and 513 no. In 2020, 56% of the voters voted against the budget. In 2021, 66% of the voters voted against the budget. He doesn't think that the Select Board even looked at that. They should have. Because it shows the town is not happy with something. If you can't look at that and understand that the town is unhappy with something, then he doesn't know what it will take. In their defense, it's not the Selectmen's budget, it's the Budget Committee's budget. He stated that he was so proud that the Budget Committee managed to discuss this out. He thought this year

1 would start a trend and bring them back into budgeting, and not the default. In 4
2 years, not one year was one penny taken out of the town budget. In fact, in three of
3 those 4 years there was more money in the budget after the Budget Committee got a
4 hold of it. If he went to the minutes, he would find that the Select Board came to the
5 Budget Committee for this or that and the Budget Committee agreed. The town knows
6 that the Budget Committee is really not scrutinizing the budget. In the 4 years the
7 School Budget was always approved to the penny. To him what is at stake here is the
8 credibility of the Budget Committee. Next year will come, and they will be doing this
9 again. He predicts that they will have a 4th year of default. The Select Board is not
10 listening to their citizens.

11 Selectman Guzofski stated that this is a formality, it's almost like they are relitigating
12 the number. He stated that they made their case at deliberative as to why they needed
13 those numbers. What he's hearing is a lot of speculation that it will be voted down.
14 They won't know until voting day. There is real cost and expenses that they must pay
15 in the town. As they said earlier, the budgeting process is a best guess assumption as
16 to what some of the future costs will be. As they looked at those costs and saw them
17 going up, they had to reevaluate some things. They were dealing with real numbers
18 and data versus where in the Budget Meetings it was more of "we think it should be
19 4%". They can think what they want, but the real figures may be more than that. The
20 Select Board did their best guess at those future expenses and came up with that
21 number. Originally, he voted no against the first number. The Select Board then went
22 back and made some adjustments and brought it down, although it's been said they
23 only shuffled things around. Budgeting is a moving of the figure to make it look
24 palatable. It's not being deceptive though. They were concerned with salaries and
25 giving increases. This was his first year with it. They also made a lot of compromises.

26 Mr. Hall stated that it's a bit of a credibility issue. They have had several years where
27 they were never really sure what the financials were telling them. Over this time with
28 all of the default budgets, the fund balance has gone up over a million dollars. From
29 2019 to 2021. It makes him uncomfortable and he stands by how he felt originally
30 that it's not going to pass.

31 Ms. B. Smith stated that with all due respect, why couldn't they have brought this to
32 the Budget Committee before Deliberative instead of blowing the whole thing?

33 Selectman Guzofski stated that he's not sure of, because he doesn't know the process
34 and what is involved in all of that. When it was bounced back to the Select Board and
35 asked them to tweak it, that's how they tweaked it. If the Budget Committee wanted
36 the 4% over the default, and they brought it to the Select Board when they were going
37 through their hours and hours of process, that would have been helpful too. To
38 address Mr. Hall's point about the surplus, the way he looks at it is that because of
39 the improper management of things the surplus got big. If you noticed at Deliberative,
40 there is a 6-year plan to bring that back down through warrant articles and tax relief.

41 Mr. Moore stated that he supported the Budget Committee number both here and at
42 Deliberative, but now that is not the choice anymore. The choice now is between the

1 higher number or default, and the default would be a worse case. He will support this
2 number both here and at the ballot box.

3 Chair Dole asked about the statement that nothing changed with the school district
4 and that they changed very little with the town's proposed budget, was he suggesting
5 that the action of the Budget Committee to agree with those two boards that what was
6 presented to the Budget Committee was a reasonable operating budget that people
7 thing that they don't review the budget?

8 Mr. Jandebaur stated that one of the groups that he belongs to is incensed that the
9 Budget Committee year after year, and this year, approve a twelve-million-dollar
10 budget in a morning. It's been done in less than two hours in the past. That just
11 infuriates them that there is such little scrutiny of the school budget. Very little time
12 was spent on the town budget.

13 Discussion continued.

14 **Ginger Dole, yes. Tom Chase, yes. Betsy Colburn, no. Brad Hall, no. Tim**
15 **Jandebaur, no. Michael Moore, yes. Betty Smith, no. Paul Tudor, no. Pam**
16 **Sanderson, yes. Jim Guzofski, yes. Bob Young, yes. Mike Jobin, no. Steve**
17 **Robinson, no. Brian Winslow, yes, Ted Wilkinson, no.**

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19 **Motion failed by roll call vote 7/9**

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21 **Internal Business: Quarterly Meeting**

22 April 19, 2022 at 7PM

23 **B. Smith made a motion, seconded by T. Jandebaur to adjourn at 8:15 PM.**

24 **Ginger Dole, yes. Tom Chase, yes. Betsy Colburn, yes. Brad Hall, yes. Tim**
25 **Jandebaur, yes. Michael Moore, yes. Betty Smith, yes. Paul Tudor, yes. Pam**
26 **Sanderson, yes. Jim Guzofski, yes. Bob Young, yes. Mike Jobin, yes. Steve**
27 **Robinson, yes. Brian Winslow, yes, Ted Wilkinson, yes.**

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29 **Motion carried by roll call vote 16/0**

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31 *Respectfully submitted,*

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33 *Susan Austin, Land Use Assistant*

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