

**TOWN OF ATKINSON
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, September 12, 2023**

Members Present

Wendy Barker, Chair
Pete Torosian, Vice Chair
Sam Butler
Taylor Haselton
Bob Malo
Bill Smith

Others Present

Dave Paquette, Selectmen Liaison
John Apple, Town Administrator
Jim Garrity, Town Moderator
Paul Wainwright, Conservation Chair
Julianna Hale, Town Clerk

Agenda: Attendance, Dept. Presentations, Liaison Reviews, Old/New Business, Minutes

Department Presentations

Elections

Jim Garrity, Town Moderator, provided the following information for the 2024 Elections budget:

January – NH Presidential Primary
February 3 – Deliberative Session
March 12 – Town/District Election
September 10 – State Primary Election
November 5 – U.S. General Presidential Election

Mr. Garrity provided the following preliminary budget highlights:

- Extra vote tabulator rental - \$1250
- Programming and preventative maintenance for voting tabulator machines
- Gym Floor protection
- Checklist Supervisors and Ballot clerks - \$10,024
- New Equipment - \$12,000
- Postage – increased
- Printing

Conservation Commission

Paul Wainwright, Chair, provided the following preliminary budget:

- Recording clerk – 10% increase
- Printing – increase to \$1500
- Care of Grounds – increase
- Special programs – increase to \$1500
- Education conferences – Tuition is \$60 for ten people each.

Town Clerk

Julianna Hale, Town Clerk, provided the following preliminary budget:

- Salaries – flat
- Additional hours for elections – 4.5 hours increase to 12.5 hours
- Dues, memberships and subscription for new addition
- Office supplies – increased from \$1500 to \$3000
- Postage – increased to \$6500
- New equipment – increased to \$300
- Mileage and Education – possible extra expenses

Combined Offices – Town Clerk and Tax Collector

John Apple, Town Administrator, provided the following preliminary budget:

- Tax Collector – level funded
- All expenses will be in the Clerk's office
- Wages will be reviewed by the BOS
- Education expenses are expected

Cemetery

Member Haselton provided the following preliminary budget:

- A new sump pump is needed - \$500
- Minor equipment expenses
- Road repairs (probably paid by ARPA)

Town Administrator Apple confirmed Member Haselton's report and added that there would probably be wage increases.

Cable

Town Administrator Apple reported that Cable is level funded.

Planning/Zoning/Inspections

Town Administrator Apple provided the following preliminary budget:

- Recording Clerk's pay increase
- Printing – 60% increase
- Public Notices – 25% increase
- Publishing Rates - \$500 increase
- Revenue growth is good

Liaison Reviews

Chair Barker has not had a chance to speak with the new Fire Chief.

Member Butler suggests a visit to the police station will convince anyone that a new police station is necessary. A Warrant Article will be drawn for the new station and once approved it will go to the State for approval. A new station will not happen until August or September of 2024.

Minutes of 8/10/2023

Approval of the Minutes is postponed until next week.

No idea who made a motion to adjourn the Budget Committee Meeting.

Member Butler seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

Next Budget Committee Meeting: September 19, 2023

On September 19, 2023, Department presentations will be for IT, Recreation, Community Center, Elder Services, and Patriotic Purposes.

The Atkinson Budget Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

DRAFT