

TOWN OF ATKINSON
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, December 22, 2020

Members Present

Bill Smith, Chair
Wendy Barker, Vice Chair
Ray Fournier
Bob Malo
Peter Torosian
Mark Sakakeeny

Others Present

Bob Worden, Selectmen Liaison
Kevin Landry, Acting Fire Chief
Karen Brown, Library Director

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda: Reading RTK Checklist, Attendance, Selectmen Liaison's Report, Proposed Numbers and Possible Adjustments

Chair Smith read the public notice regarding COVID-19.

Attendance was taken.

Selectmen Worden reported the following:

- The Board of Selectmen (BOS) appointed one full-time police officer and one part-time officer
- The BOS added two more on-call firefighters
- The fire hydrant number stands until there is a rate change approved by the Public Utilities Commission.
- The Building Needs Committee presented a 5-year \$1.3 million proposal to finance a low-interest note of 1.75%. The BOS decided to secure bond counsel to obtain the proper advice. No decision was made but will be discussed in finality at the next meeting.
- FEMA denied the application for CARES, therefore the monies left over from the Police Dept. helped pay for the coverage for the Fire Dept. for the rest of the year.
- Selectman Worden asked the Budget Committee to go over the Health Agencies so that he could bring it to the BOS at the next meeting.
- Selectman Worden agrees with the Budget Committee that the cleaning of the school auditorium should be paid for by the school.
- Selectman Worden agrees with the Budget Committee that the two additional firefighters should go to a Warrant Article.
- Selectman Worden will request the BOS meet with Trinity as to what they can or cannot do and to share their numbers.

Chair Smith made a motion to recommend that **Line 41301.110.01** BOS Recording Clerk be allocated \$1. Member Fournier seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 5/0/0**

All members discussed who should pay for the cleaning of the auditorium for the Deliberative Meeting. It has been put off for further discussion.

Chair Smith made a motion to increase **Line 41501.110.00** Bookkeeper for \$56,535, **Line 41501.220.00** FICA for \$3,611, **Line 41501.225.00** Medicare for \$844, **Line 41501.230.00** Retirement for \$7,135, **Line 41501.820.00** Mileage for \$125, **Line 41501.850.00** Education/Conferences for \$500.

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

Member Torosian made a motion to approve all Buildings Lines, which were not voted on, as proposed.

Member Fournier seconded the motion. Four members were in favor; two members were not in favor.

Vote: 4/2/0

Member Torosian made a motion to populate, in the Budget Committee column, **Line 42401.110.00** and **Line 42401.110.02 through Line 42401.850.00** with the proposed column values.

Chair Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

Member Torosian made a motion to approve the proposed amount of **Line 42992.390.00** Dispatch for \$47,525.

Chair Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

Member Torosian made a motion to change **Line 43111.110.00 through Line 43111.225.00** to 1.50% from 2.00% with the exception of **Line 43111.210.00** Health Insurance.

Chair Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

Chair Smith made a motion to approve, as proposed, **Line 43112.341.00** Highway Engineering through **Line 43122.890.01** Highway Cleaning & Mtce with the exception of **Line 43112.850.00** Highway Educational Conferences.

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

Member Fournier made a motion to decrease **Line 43234.875.00** Recycling Signs/Decals to \$200.

Chair Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

Chair Smith made a motion to approve, as proposed, **Line 43234.120.00** Recycling Custodial through **Line 43234.890.00** Recycling Contract Labor/Equipment with the exception of **Line 43234.875.00** Recycling Signs/Decals.

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

Member Torosian made a motion to adjust **Lines 44111.220.00** Health Admin. FICA and **44111.220.00** Health Admin. Medicare and approve, as proposed, **Line 44111.341.00** Health Admin. H.O. Pager through **Line 44111.850.00** Health Admin. Public Notice.

Chair Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

Chair Smith made a motion to approve, as proposed, **Line 44421.390.00** General Assistance Other Professional Services through **Line 44421.810.00** General Assistance Food.

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

Chair Smith made a motion to approve \$1 for **Line 44152.350.02** Health Agencies Rockingham VNA and to approve all other lines for Health Agencies as proposed.

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

Acting Fire Chief Landry reported the following:

- Due to a drop in on-call personnel, the Fire Department is making an effort to increase the on-call members.
- Out-of-town on-callers is not working because they are dedicated to their own towns which is why full-time employees would mean the department would have their own members seven days a week.
- Having the two full timers would give a better assurance of saving lives, especially when the contracted ambulances are not available.
- He will provide any specific data the Budget Committee asks for.
- 69% of the Fire Department's calls were EMS calls.

All members discussed having two additional full-time firefighters on a Warrant Article rather than in the town budget, thus giving the residents the option to vote on it.

Member Torosian made a motion to reduce **Line 45501.360.00** Library Cleaning Service from \$15,000 to \$14,200.

Chair Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Vote: 6/0/0**

Chair Smith made a motion to adjust the above motion from \$14,200 to \$14,500.

Member Malo seconded the motion. Four members were in favor; two were not in favor. **Vote: 6/2/0**

Member Torosian made a motion to reduce **Line 45501.410.00** Library Electricity from \$16,000 to \$15,100.

Chair Smith seconded the motion. Five members were in favor; one member was not in favor. **Vote: 5/1/0**

Minutes for 12/15/2020

Chair Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/15/2020 as amended.

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

Chair Smith made a motion to adjourn.

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

The Atkinson Budget Committee Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.