

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 1, 2024**  
**Lincoln Town Hall, Lincoln, NH**  
**(video on YouTube) (approved as amended)**

**ATTENDING:** Chairman Mike Simons, Selectperson Tammy Ham, Wayne Baltzer, Paul Beaudin, Tracey Brumlik, Ray D'Amante, Brian Gallagher, Brent Hansma, Cindy Lloyd, Jim Spanos, Carina Park, Becky Farnsworth

**Absent:** Al Poulin (excused), Dennis Ducharme (excused), Herb Gardner (excused)

**Audience:** Carol Riley, Victoria Martin, Blair Weeden, Ryan Weeden, Hillary Reardon, Kathleen Dodge, Blaise Duguay, Dylan Dragotta, Renee Hoover, OJ Robinson, Spencer Kelley, Matthew Gato

**Call to order: 5:30**

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BUDGETS:**

**LIBRARY:** Line items of budget listed with totals (see budget)

**Motion to approve and recommend at \$184,517.000,** Cindy, Second: Brent

**Discussion:** Wayne states that the difference in what the BOS recommended and what the Trustees recommended is the \$2,400 for the increased part-time wages. Brian states that the Trustees can use the surplus to increase the wages for individual employees. Carina states that all wages can be negotiated individually. Tammy clarifies that the bottom line is the only thing we vote on and the department heads decide how they will spend that money. For: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion carries unanimously

**LONG TERM DEBT:** Carina states that the Bank of NH took the extra payment off the bottom line instead of the principal, therefore we will pay the loan off 2 years earlier. To cover the loan amount the Levy Bond was increased. **Motion to approve and recommend the amended debt amount of \$717,496.00,** Brent, Second: Cindy

For: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion carries unanimously

**Motion to accept and recommend the OPERATING BUDGET TOTAL** of \$8,533,406.00, Ray, Second: Tammy, For: 8 Opposed: 1 Abstain: 0 Motion carries

Department revenue total \$1,534,285.00 plus the amount we bring in from the state of \$558,618.00 makes the \$2,092,903.00. **Motion to accept and recommend the OPERATING BUDGET'S OFFSETTING REVENUE TOTAL** at \$2,092,903.00, Brent, Second: Cindy.

**Discussion:** Carina states that this is a conservative estimate and in September they will go through the actuals and amend if necessary. For: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion carries unanimously

## **PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLE:**

**Motion to recommend the PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLE of \$4,000,000.00, Cindy,**  
Second: Tammy

Discussion: Brent states that the price seems extremely high. Tammy states that petition warrant articles go to the top of the warrant. If it exceeds 10% of the overall budget and it passes, but the Budget Committee (BC) hasn't recommended it, then the DRE goes to the bottom (CIP items) of our warrant and starts cutting items off until they get to that 10%. If the BC does recommend and it passes then the budget is fully funded. With the BC and the BOS recommending this warrant article it gives the voters a chance to be heard. Carina states that anything that is a fixed cost (debt) can't be cut.

Blaise Duguay states that this land has access to Route 3, has some water, sewer, and road infrastructure. Jim is concerned with just purchasing the land with no plan of how it will be used. Carina states that after the monies are approved they can investigate it more and get an appraisal done. Ray states that before any decision can be made a lot of investigating has to be done, but we don't want to lose an opportunity by putting it off. Brent's concern is that the money be spent responsibly and he feels the article is written too restrictively. Blaise states that in Grafton County there may be huge parcels of land, but within the town limits there aren't, especially those that include water and sewer. Tammy states the owners of the land have said they are interested in selling this to Lincoln. OJ states that this warrant would allow us to negotiate, come up with a plan, control the trails, the development and the pace of development. Blair Weeden states that Forest Ridge lot is on a hill and the access points aren't very good. Vicky Martin states that the town is shrinking and is being bought up by 2<sup>nd</sup> home owners and developers and locals can't afford to live here. This property is an opportunity to preserve the town for future generations and the people who want to live here. Ryan Weeden states that a developer is going to snap this up if we don't take this opportunity. Our school is shrinking and we need to draw more people here. Carina states that any debt over \$100,000.00 has to have a bond hearing. This one will be on February 20<sup>th</sup>. OJ states that the letter of interest is ready to be given to the broker. Paul states that the town has had other opportunities to buy pieces of land, but he's concerned there is no plan of how this will be used. Spencer Kelley states that the tax payers should be able to vote on it. Blaise states that step one is to buy the land and step two is to come up with a plan.

Brian requests a roll call vote.

Ray moves the question, Second, Brent

Roll call vote: Wayne, yes, Paul, nay, Jim, yes, Ray, yes, Brent, yes, Tammy, yes, Tracey, yes, Cindy, yes, Brian, yes, For: 8 Opposed: 1 Abstain: 0, Motion carries

**Motion to accept and recommend the GRAND TOTAL** in the amount of \$14,319,100.00,  
Brian, Second: Cindy, For: 7 Opposed: 2 Abstain: 0, Motion carries  
**Open PUBLIC HEARING at 7 pm**


Carol Riley asks why the library steps budget was cut. Brent states that only one bid was received and that \$30,000 is reasonable. Paul states that the company working on the police station will be asked to give an estimate on the steps. The total can be amended on the floor at Town Meeting once other estimates are received.

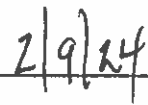
**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Next meeting is Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Carina states that we will review a petition warrant article from Kanc. Rec for \$150,000 for a pavilion. We will then have to revote on the Grand Total.

**MOTION: "To continue the Public Hearing."**

Brent, Second: Cindy, For: 10 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0, Motion carries

  
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Chairman Mike Simons

  
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Date:

