



NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2021

Present: George Corliss, Steve Randall, Amy O Hara, Kaitlin Lounsbury, Carl Bartlett, Morris Boudreau, and Selectmen Representative Kevin Waldron.

Also Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud, Interim DPW Director Justin Bernier, Youth Assistance Program Director Dawn Shimberg, Chairwomen for Youth Assistance Program Jennifer Adams

The 2021 Budget Committee meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman George Corliss.

Randall/Bartlett motioned to move Outside Agencies to first on the agenda, all in favor, motion passed.

Dawn Shimberg gave a presentation on the Youth Assistance Program. Truancy, court diversion, depression and drug and alcohol programs is what they have been focusing on in 2020. With COVID there has been more depression with the youth, as they are spending less time with their peers and more time isolated. Ms. Shimberg also discussed a State of NH grant which they received in 2020. YAP receives this grant as a reimbursement grant which means they spend the funds and then it is reimbursed to the agency. They received approx. \$9,500.00 for each quarter, because the State is on a fiscal year and the agency is on a calendar year, the grant comes into the agency one half in year 2020 and the remainder in in the first six months of 2021. YAP did initially request \$58,320.00 from the Town but with the grant they only ended up requesting \$48,424.00 for 2020, and they will need the same for 2021.

The Selectmen reduced the Youth Assistance Programs request from \$58,320.00 to \$24,212.00 due to the fact that parents of the child do not pay for any of these services, regardless of income. Selectmen also fear that if COVID continues for longer than anticipated, taxes and revenue may not come in the second half of 2021 as projected, or may lag to the end of the year which will require the Town to spend more on a Tax Anticipation Note than is needed.

Bartlett/Lounsbury motioned to fund the Youth Assistance Program at \$57,439.00, motion passed 5-1.

The DPW Budget was up next and was discussed at great length- Salary and Wages were discussed- there was a clerical error made by the T/A with the Selectmen's recommendation of \$398,070. It should have been \$388,070. The Committee reviewed all of the lines in DPW as follows-

Much discussion was had on the DPW operating budget. Roads were discussed as well. New equipment was discussed as there is money in the budget for a line painter. Discussion was had on the line painting, line item. Discussed was, should we do contract line painting and also buy a line painter as well. It was discovered that we would contract out for line painting of the roads and supplement a line painting machine for crosswalks and handicap parking spaces, which the DPW personnel will do. Also discussed in great detail were the General Supplies line, and the Welding Supply lines. Should these lines be adjusted or not and the committee will discuss each line and then go back and vote on the lines that have questions.

The Safety Equipment line was discussed which is mostly for safety boot reimbursement and chain saw operation safety equipment for DPW personnel. Discussed were tree limbs and tree removal at Pines Park, as the trees need to be removed as they are diseased and a safety hazard as they stand now. This has been discussed by the Selectmen and was discussed last year with this committee.

Other budget items discussed was the Transfer Station budget and the Solid Waste budget as this year the curbside trash collection contract is up for renewal. The Committee spent some time discussing these two items. The Selectmen will be meeting with Casella Solid Waste to discuss this contract at their next meeting on Tuesday, and will hopefully have more information.

After all budget lines were discussed the Committee voted on the lines that have been adjusted.

Bartlett/Lounsbury motioned to fund the Transfer Station budget at \$28,298.00, all in favor, motion passed.

Lounsbury/Bartlett motioned to fund the Selectmen's recommendation for the Street Lights budget at \$15,000.00 all in favor, motioned passed.

Randall/Boudreau motioned to accept Selectmen's recommendation of \$1.00 for the Bridge Maintenance line budget, all in favor motion passed.

Lounsbury/Bartlett motioned to accept Road Maintenance bottom line budget at \$254,502.00, all in favor, motion passed.

Bartlett/Randall motioned to accept Selectmen's recommendation for Vehicle Maintenance budget of \$52,500.00. All in favor, motioned passed.

Lounsbury/Randall motioned to approve \$388,070.00 for the Salary Wage line in the DPW budget, all in favor, motioned passed.

Randall/O'Hara motioned to approve \$9,000.00 for the General Supply line in the DPW budget, motion passed 5-1.

Bartlett/O'Hara motioned to approve \$2,000.00 for the Safety Equipment line in the DPW budget, 3-3 tie, with the Chairman voting yea, motion passed 4-3.

Lounsbury/Randall motioned to approve \$2,000.00 for the Welding Supplies line in the DPW budget, all in favor, motion passed.

Waldron/Boudreau motioned to approve \$6,000.00 for New Equipment line in the DPW budget, 5-1, Motion passed.

Waldron/Lounsbury motioned to approve \$685,236.00 for a bottom line budget for DPW Administration, all in favor, motion passed.

Bartlett/Randall motioned to level fund all Outside Agencies at the same funding as in 2020. There was a 5-1 vote, motion passed.

Bartlett/Lounsbury motioned to adjourn the meeting, all in favor, motion passed.

No further business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

The next meeting of the Budget Committee will be on January 28th at 6:30pm.

Minutes Recorded by T/A Ken Robichaud

Minutes Approved on January 28th, 2021.