



NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of November 18th 2021

Present: George Corliss, Morris Boudreau, Scott Haskins, Selectmen Representative Mark Hubbell, Don Stevens, and Carl Bartlett.

Also Present: Town Administrator Ken Robichaud

Absent Members: Amy O'Hara

Chairman Corliss called the meeting to order @ 7:30 pm.

Scott Haskins/Carl Bartlett motioned to make Morris Boudreau Vice Chairman of the Budget Committee, all in favor, motion passed.

Haskins/Bartlett motioned to accept the minutes of April 22, 2021 meeting as presented. All in favor motion passed.

The Committee discussed future meeting dates and times and the following schedule was agreed upon.

December 2nd- 6:00pm -7:30pm

December 9th- 6:00pm-7:30 pm

December 18th, 6:00pm-7:30 pm

January 6th 2022-6:00pm-7:30 pm

January 13th 2022- 6:00pm-7:30 pm

January 20th 2022- 6:00pm- 7:30pm

January 27th 2022- 6:00pm-7:30 pm

Selectmen Hubbell addressed the Budget Committee as to the pay rates for Town Employees. The Police Department has had two officers leave in the past month to other agencies that pay more. The DPW Department has had 3 positions that have been vacant for several months for a lack of competitive salary. The roads in this Town are awful and in disrepair. We need to attract and retain good employees. But we send over \$290,000.00 to outside agencies instead of keeping the dollars to attract and retain employees, repair our roads and equipment. We don't want to raise taxes and I am for that, but we need to plow our roads in the winter and keep our citizens safe with good officers on the road. Scott Haskins stated that in the past we had a pay study that we did with towns comparable to our size and we were pretty close to that pay.

The Town Administrator reviewed the 2022 budget with the Committee. He explained what was in the budget book and how he put it together this year. Also; included in the budget is a 5 year look back at prior budgets and expenses.

The Committee spoke about all eight outside agency budget requests and spoke briefly about the Youth Assistance Program. The Youth Assistance Program (YAP) has requested an increase from last year's request. YAP did meet with the Selectmen on Tuesday to discuss the increase to their budget. Health insurance has increased approx. \$2,800, along with the programs rent has increased approx. \$350.0 per year. Dawn Shimberg the Executive Director of YAP has not received an increase in salary for several years and this request includes a 2.5% raise to the hourly wage. There was a lot of discussion on this and the program overall, as well as possibly asking for recidivism reports to show how the program is successful or unsuccessful. The Committee

discussed the program in great length as to how the child is assessed and how many children they service at any one time. The Committee will discuss this more in detail at another meeting.

The Committee moved on to other outside agencies and discussed which ones the Committee would like to have come in and meet with the Committee members. The Committee decided to meet with the Library and the Tilton Northfield Recreation Department. The Town Administrator will reach out to the agencies and schedule them for the next meeting. Franklin Visiting Nurses Agency (VNA) came up for discussion as they have a sizable bank account and they are requesting \$5,000.00 again for 2022 Budget. There was some discussion as to why they are requesting \$5,000.00 if they have \$2.5 million in their bank account. Selectman Hubbell stated that we should be looking at every outside agency that is requesting Town funding no matter the amount of money.

The next meeting will be on December 2nd

Bartlett/Hubbell motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm, all in favor, motion passes.

**Minutes Recorded by T/A Ken Robichaud
Minutes voted and Approved on 12/02/2021**