

NORTHFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of January 9, 2020

Present: George Corliss, Carl Bartlett, Steve Randall, Kaitlin Lounsbury, Morris Boudreau, Kevin Waldron, Sel Rep. Glen Brown;

Others Present: Stephanie Giovannucci, Cindy Caveney, Andy Buteau;

George Corliss called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Randall/Bartlett moved to approve minutes from January 02, 2020 as corrected. **Motion Passed.**

- **Town Clerk / Tax Collector / Election 2020 Proposed Budget:**

Committee reviewed the Town Clerk's budget request.

Mr. Randall asked about the new equipment line pertaining to the State printer and asked if Ms. Caveney expect the printers to go out soon. Ms. Caveney stated that the State has turned the printers over to the Town and they are 6-7 years old now so she is expecting them to die out soon. She has received a quote for two replacements and only one quote met their needs so the dollar amount listed is for one printer quoted from our computer vendor and then we'll put the other printer in next year's budget.

Mr. Boudreau asked about the office supply increase. Ms. Caveney stated they need a record book and 2 toners for the clerk printer.

Ms. Lounsbury asked why education was down. Ms. Caveney stated that both Clerks have been recertified so only amount is the regular seminars they attend.

Committee noted the increase in elections, Ms. Caveney stated there are 4 Elections in 2020, she has to pay and feed the workers.

Committee reviewed the Tax Collectors 2020 proposed budget and had no questions.

Randall/Brown moved to approve the Tax Collectors budget for \$74,960. **Motion Passed.**

Randall/Boudreau moved to approve the Elections for \$8,505 **Motion Passed.**

Randall/Lounsbury moved to approve the Clerk Budget for \$86,587 **Motion Passed.**

- **Highway Budget:**

Mr. Buteau stated that he is requesting to increase in salaries of \$25,000 due to adding an employee in the line item and noting that he lost an employee last week and the cost to get a replacement is going to need to be increased due to requirements and being competitive with the market. Ms. Giovannucci explained that the \$54,000 was for the additional employee and the additional pay would be to fill the new position plus there has been a salary increase for an existing crew member.

Mr. Corliss asked if the \$25,000 covered the insurance. Mr. Buteau stated yes it's the bottom line budget he just stuck it in the salaries. Mr. Waldron stated if you raise the wages then you need to raise the overtime. Mr. Buteau said yes that is true but he has been increasing the hourly and sending people home to get sleep then come back during storms, while if you look at other towns they keep the crew on and have them nap at the garage. Mr. Randall stated it shouldn't increase because you will have more people. Mr. Buteau stated yes that theory is correct, but weather events change that. Ms. Lounsbury questioned part-time wage increase by the Selectboard. Mr. Buteau stated they need to increase the wages because they have a hard time finding help and they may not have inmates this year.

Mr. Randall asked about doing an upgrade in 2020 for the highways radios. Mr. Buteau stated that he hasn't looked into it yet and he needs to explore his options.

Mr. Buteau explained there is an increase in tires due to needing two sets of snow tires and they still use the 10 wheeler.

Mr. Buteau stated he would like to increase the salt to \$85,000. Mr. Randall asked if it is market rate when purchased. Mr. Buteau stated that the Town goes through the State bids and the price is for the season. Mr. Buteau stated that the sand is good at \$15,000.

Mr. Buteau noted that they used less diesel in 2019.

Mr. Buteau requested an increase of cold patch to \$8,000 because there's a lot more patching to do. Mr. Waldron asked if it made sense at some point to go to a hot patch system, cold patch seems to be a waste of money because you put it in the whole and it gets pounded out. Mr. Buteau stated that's why he's been using hot top, so they saw out the affected area and hot top it. For hot patch system we'd need equipment.

Mr. Buteau requested the Road Project line be increased to \$50,000, adding that CIP has certain road projects that are separate from this line item. Mr. Buteau noted that they have gravel roads that will need ditching and additional gravel and catch basin cleaning will be more due to all the dirt put in the roadways from the winter season.

Ms. Lounsbury asked why there was a decrease in the wages under Sanitation. Mr. Buteau stated because when there are openings and employees are on vacation the highway crew covers.

Mr. Waldron informed the Committee that he would be abstaining from voting on any of the Highway budget since he is currently an on-call employee for the department.

Mr. Randall made a motion to increase \$25,000 to wages for a total of \$672,300 after discussion Mr. Randall withdrew his motion.

Randall/Lounsbury moved to approve \$672,300 Public Works Department Admin. **Motion Passed with 1 abstain.**

Lounsbury/Boudreau moved to approve \$50,000 for vehicle maintenance. **Motion Passed with 1 abstain.**

Randall/Bartlett moved to approve \$246,501 for road maintenance. **Motion Passed with 1 abstain.**

Randall/Lounsbury moved to approve \$1.00 for bridge maintenance. **Motion Passed with 1 abstain.**

Randall/Boudreau moved to approve \$13,000 for street lights. **Motion Passed.**

Randall/Lounsbury moved to approve \$27,827 for sanitation. **Motion Passed.**

Randall moved to approve \$159,000 for solid waste collection. There being no second **Motion failed.**

Lounsbury/Bartlett moved to approve \$156,000 for solid waste collection. **Motion Passed.**

Randall/Bartlett moved to approve \$125,000 for solid waste disposal. **Motion Passed.**

Randall/Bartlett moved to approve \$1,290,629 for the total budget for the Public Works Department. **Motion Passed.**

Being no other business the meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Minutes approved January 16, 2020