



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JOINT SESSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 8, 2023**

Present: Marybeth Quill, Chairman, Karl Pruter, Vice Chairman, Bob Hamilton, Selectman, Betsy Lambert, Executive Secretary. Members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectmen's Announcements: The tax rate has been set at \$25.04 (the municipal portion decreased by 13 cents), Tax Bills sent out this week –Nov.7th. Bob mentioned there would be a Veterans Day Service at Cathedral of the Pines Saturday November 11, 2023. There is more information on the Rindge Chamber of Commerce Website. Wreaths across America is still in need of donations, they are very close to their goal. The Advent Lutheran Church is having a fair on Saturday November 11, 2023 from 9-2. The Community Power Committee is meeting on Friday, November 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Citizens Forum: No comments were made.

Consent Agenda: Marybeth made a motion to approve the 10.25.2023 meeting minutes as amended, and Payroll and Accounts Payable for 11.09.2023. Karl seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Old Business:

ARPA Update: Higher Design is working on the septic design for the new septic system for the meeting house. Mike is working on getting bids as well. SCBA Bob mentioned pushing forward with this sooner rather than later.

New Business:

Joint Session/Budget Advisory Committee

Town Clerk – 5590 Contracted Services – Shredding/ PIF – looking to increase on this from \$225.00 to \$475.00, due to overage of use on the copy machine. Also the shredding cost going up. 5372 - Certificates and Fees - would like to increase this from \$6500.00 to \$7000.00 for purchases of Birth and Marriage Certificates and supplies. 5630 – Postage, due to the ongoing increase of postage, as of now the budgeted amount is not enough. Proposed increase from \$

3200.00 to \$4000.00. 5710 - Staff Development – requesting a \$205.00 increase for staff training as she is going to be hiring a new Deputy who will need training.

Elections/Supervisors of the Checklist – Karla McCloud, - 5630 - Postage budget is low as postage continues to go up and the amount of absentee ballots continue to grow. Shana responded that the ballot-counting machines are obsolete as of 2024. There are four elections in 2024. Bob suggested that the Town Administrator, Moderator, and Supervisors of the Checklist get together to come up with a budget for elections in 2024. Bob suggested putting \$10,000 aside just in case.

Trustee of the Trust Funds – The budget remained flat.

Board of Adjustments – The budget remained flat.

Historical Society – The budget remained flat.

Patriotic Purposes – The budget remained flat.

Conservation Committee – 5443 – Property Management – Increasing from \$250.00 to \$5,000.00 due to increasing property maintenance and Conservation volunteers not being able to maintain it all. 4/5 months of Trail maintenance, grass mowing @ 5 properties, end of season field mowing @ 2 properties, snow plowing @ 5 properties. Currently done via volunteers. RFQ's to be developed soliciting bids in 2024. Includes \$300.00 fuel for ongoing property maintenance activities. 5560 – Dues & Subscriptions- \$470.00 to \$540.00 Dues adjusted to reflect memberships; NHAAC, CNBRLAC, Harris Center, NHANRS .5620 - Office & Cleaning Supplies – reduced from \$50.00 to \$25.00. 5630 - Postage – increase \$45.00 to \$70.00. 5680 – Misc. Expense - \$45.00 to \$25.00 5710 – Staff Development – reduced \$515.00 to \$400.00 Adjusted: Annual conference attendance reduced. 5760 - Mileage – Reduced \$340.00 to \$250.00 Adjusted: Reduction in remote attendance.

Animal Control Officer – 5610 – General Supplies - \$250.00 increase cost of food to feed the animal in shelter. 5760 – Mileage

Police Department – 5345 - Physicals, Polys, PSY Test – increase from \$1000.00 to \$1380.00. Three new applicants. 5471 - Telephone –increase from \$2280.00 to \$2460.00 new contract on the phone system. 5560 - Dues and Subscriptions – reduced from \$1150.00 to 865.00 due to no more gym fees. 5590 - Contracted Services – increase from \$6428.00 to \$6750.00 printer is out of service so there may be a new contract in place. 5620 - Office and Cleaning supplies- 5625 - Administrative Expenses - 5630 - Postage is staying the same at \$500.00. 5635 – Gasoline – decreasing from \$23,516 to \$20,850 due to only driving 100 miles per shift. 5760 - Mileage- increase from \$500.00 to \$8500.00 due to Academy prices going up and not able to stay at the Academy.

Recreation – 5560 – Dues and Subscriptions - Increasing from \$765.00 to \$785.00. 5620 – Office and Cleaning Supplies – Increase from \$950.00 to \$1300 due to the cleaning products and

bathroom supplies being moved from town buildings to Rec Department. 5678 – Tennis/Ice Rink from \$200 to \$250 for new Tennis court nets and Pickle Ball interest increase. 5840 - Lease Purchase Payments - increase from \$860 to \$1052 due the copy machine lease of \$190.00 and color copies that have also gone up.

Informational Items/Communications & Updates: Bob mentioned getting the beautification committee was looking for volunteers to help keep the town grounds looking beautiful.

Adjournment: 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Lambert
Executive Secretary