October 26, 2023 Minutes

A meeting of the Budget Committee was held on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at the Hampstead Town Hall, 11 Main Street, Hampstead, NH.

**PRESENT:** Robert Weimar, Lewis Eaton (Ex-Officio), Lilli Walsh, and Steve Bates.

* General Discussion

Chairman Weimar thanked the committee members for the work they have done outside of the official meetings to gather information.

Chairman Weimar had comments regarding the Recycling & Solid Waste budget and asked what they are doing to try to reduce costs. B. Weimar asked if they have done homework to get budget down. B. Weimar mentioned glass as an issue as it is no longer a commodity. B Weimar asked if Hampstead is part of Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) (D. Soucy confirmed that Hampstead is part of NRRA). B. Weimar asked if Hampstead was getting the lowest cost for pick-up and disposal.

Chairman Weimar commented that people do what they have always done and don’t challenge things and that needs to change. B. Weimar continued the discussion regarding Recycling and Solid Waste and asked what neighboring towns do suggesting a better price via economies of scale.

B. Weimar suggested the Recycling & Solid Waste committee should be long-range planning as he has heard that NH will be maxed out in 10 years. B. Weimar commented that he wants to challenge default decisions that have been made.

Chairman Weimar mentioned that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) committee is getting ready to perform an analysis of projects and will be meeting with each department/committee/board. The CIP meeting is 11/9/2023 at 5PM at town hall, the budget committee was asked to attend this meeting.

B. Weimar stated the Budget Committee owes it to the tax payer to substantiate costs.

Chairman Weimar mentioned meeting with K. Thomas and the library trustees regarding the presentation of their budget.

Chairman Weimar stated when there is a significant change in cost the town should be questioning if it’s the best deal.

B. Weimar questioned what services NRRA could provide and asked D. Soucy to check with T. Harrington.

S. Bates gave an overview of the assessing budget. Chairman Weimar asked what they are doing to manage costs. S. Bates reviewed the Conservation budget and indicated there are small items that need to be done and there is a minimal increase of $4K.

L. Walsh asked about the increases in the Library budget. L. Eaton stated the town’s overall budget is up $900K. L. Eaton stated there are three main drivers in the overall budget increase, fire, highway and recyclying. L. Eaton commented that compliance with Federal regulations is driving the DPW budget up by $200K.

Chairman Weimar restated the CIP meeting on 11/9 at 5PM at town hall and asked budget committee members to attend. The next Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for 11/16 at 7PM at the Town Hall meeting room. B. Weimar stated he would like to request Department Head attendance at this meeting.

* Minutes 10/5/2023

MOTION: L. Eaton made a motion to approve the 10/5/2023 minutes as presented.

SECOND: L. Walsh

VOTE: 4-0

* Adjourn

MOTION: L. Walsh made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 P.M.

SECOND: S. Bates

VOTE: 4-0

Minutes prepared by Debbie Soucy, Secretary