

Orford Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)

Minutes

December 13, 2022

Amended and accepted 1/4/2023

Members then: Ruth Hook, Larry Duffy, Lawrence Hibbard, Bob Palifka, Bill Paxton, Tom Thomson, Ken Wiren

Meeting called to order 5:32

Approval of 11/07/2022 Minutes – Bill P made some corrections. Tom T made a motion to accept as amended, Ken W 2nd Motion. Motion passed as amended.

Handout Information

- Ruth H handed out the questions that were presented to the Selectboard Board (SB) at their 12/12/2022 Budget Work Session with the Budget Advisory Committee along with the responses. (see end of report)

Discussion:

- Members felt it was still premature to make recommendations to the Selectboard as the information presented is not complete so we can understand what the impact will be to taxpayers.
- According to the Selectboard's Review Submitted Budget Schedule, the BAC was scheduled to provide the Selectboard with its recommendations on the budget and warrant articles via a written report. As the Selectboard has not finalized the Warrant Articles as of December 12th, we were not able to make any recommendations. Before we can go forward, first we need the Selectboard to provide us with their recommendations. Warrant Articles are still not complete, creating of a lack of information forth-coming from the Selectboard.

Warrant Article #? \$140,000 New Ford F550:

- There are still questions as to why the Selectboard supports the purchase of a new Ford F550 to replace the current 2019 – 1 ½ ton dump truck which is only 3 ½ years old with 32,489 miles as of November 30th, put into service May 2019, when the Vehicle Replace Schedule is 5 years. At our meeting with the Selectboard last night, December 12th, we questioned rather than purchasing a new truck, why not update the current truck like the Fire Dept. did with Fire Engine #3 updating the electric system by having the town raise \$15,000 last year, resulting in extending the replacement schedule to 30 years. When questioning the Selectboard on the availability of the Ford F550, they responded that it would take up to 2 years to receive a new Ford F550, so they want to order the truck in 2023, planning on that we would not see the truck until 2025. As of tonight, we still have not been supplied with the truck's specs. Bob P researched the availability of the Ford F550 on the internet and found they are not scarce. He found 20 trucks already out-fitted with dump bodies under \$100,000. Ken W will start checking with Ford Dealerships in his area on availability as well. It was noted that when the town purchases a truck, it is only the cab and chaise. Then the truck is sent to another company for up-fitting.
- Ken W recommended putting off the purchase of a new Ford F550, follow the Town's replacement schedule of 5 years, and next year, rather than purchase a new truck, the town should invest in a new well at the Highway Garage so the crew would have good drinking water and could wash down the trucks at the end of the day.
- **Motion:** Bob P made a motion to **put off the purchase of the Ford F550 dump truck to at least 2025**, no payment made till 2025, and the motion was amended to add "the replacement schedule to be sequential intervals of 7 years for the Ford F550 for the future". Ken W 2nd the motion. **Motion passed with all members in favor.**

Town Employee 8.7% Wage Increase and the 11% Insurance Contributions.

- The BAC hopes that the Selectboard will revisit the 2023 Town Employees 8.7% wage increase and the 11% Health & Dental Insurance Contributions.
 - Last year, 2022, Town Employees received a 6% increase. If this budget passes, it represents Town Employees receiving 14.7% in two years.
 - Town Employees 11% Insurance Contribution: We provided the Selectboard with Rivendell's Employees Health Contribution for License Employees (Teachers & RSA staff), **20% Contribution**, and Non-Support Staff (Blended Rate of 1% year), **20% Contribution**. Non-staff is a blended contribution rate and is currently at 16.67% that will increase 1% each year up to 20%.

Questions:

- **Question:** *Diesel Fuel: How many gallons of fuel was spilled when the secondary containment for the fuel tank failed?*
- **Question:** *Rivendell Community Field Lease:*
 - *When is the current Community Field Lease up with Rivendell?*
 - *When would the new Rivendell Community Field lease be effective, from what date – to what date?*
 - *Does the new proposed \$29,000 Rivendell Community Field Lease that has been presented to Rivendell for their review, cover the cost of the Community Field's maintenance?*

Bob P Motion to adjourn, Tom T 2nd. Motion Passed

Adjourned 6:45

Respectfully Submitted

Ruth Hook

These minutes were accepted as amended by the remaining Budget Advisory Committee members 1/4/2023 after electing a new Chairperson:

Members: Bill Paxton, Larry Duffey, and Bob Palifka, Chairperson