

## Orford Budget Advisory Committee

### Minutes

December 17, 2021

Members: Members: Ruth Hook, Chair; Larry Duffy, Lawrence Hibbard, Bill Paxton, Bob Palifka, Tom Thomson, Ken Wiren via phone (note: BAC – Budget Advisory Committee, SB – Selectboard)

Called to Order 5:45

Re-voted our 12/7/21 Budget & Warrant Article Recommendation Report to be presented to the Selectboard for their 12/22/21 meeting using the 12/10/21 Revised General Operation Budget and 12/10/21 Warrant Articles. There were no revisions to the General Operation Budget.

#### WARRANT ARTICLES

**Art. 2. \$1,203,037 Operating Budget – 2 Favor, 5 Opposed**

- Majority Recommends to Reduce Budget by \$31,662 total \$1,171,375
  - PD Reduce 4210.10-113 Salaries P/T requested \$ 4,750 Recommended \$ 1,750
  - PD requested \$158,565 Recommended \$155,565
  - FD Level Fund requested \$ 74,680 Recommended \$ 73,878
  - Hwy Level Fund requested \$435,985 Recommended \$408,125

**Art. 3. \$372,665 Raise & Appropriate Capital Reserve Funds – 2 Favor, 5 Opposed**

- Why did the SB increased the Police Cruiser CRF from \$12,731 to \$22,000 since 12/6/21?

**Art. 4. \$16,878 Charity Donations – 7 Favor**

**Art. 5. \$16,101 FEMA money – 7 Favor**

**Art 6. \$68,101 Broadband CRF – 4 Favor, 3 Abstained**

**Art 7. \$7,000 Establish Revaluation CRF – 7 Favor**

**Art 8. (\$2,421.82) transfer from Bank to Playground CRF – 7 Favor**

**Art 9. \$68,500 4WD/AWD Pickup – Chief Backus indicated the F150 Pickup \$69,613.95 – 2 Favor, 5 Opposed**

- 5 that Opposed, RECOMMEND's the Primary Vehicle should be the Interceptor SUV which is \$7,000 less that the taxpayers need to raise.

**Art. 10. \$7,000 Radar Trailer Sign – 2 Favor, 5 Opposed**

**Art. 11. \$218,400 10-Wheel Dump Truck – 2 Favor, 5 Opposed**

- The majority do not agree with replacing current 6-wheel dump truck with ONLY 42,000+ miles, the warranty is up, or the Replacement Schedule changed from 10 years to 7 years without the BAC knowledge.

**Art. 12. \$250,000 Pave River Road, Brook Road, and Dublin Road – 1 Favor with removal "of any other paving project", 3 Opposed, 3 Abstained**

- ALL agreed to Remove "or any other paving project approved by the Selectboard"
- 12/10/21, Revised Proposal from Blaktop with the following breakdown which does not add up.
  - Project #1 Reclaim River, Brook & Dublin Roads \$ 16,952
  - River Road \$164,952
  - Brook Road \$ 42,891
  - Dublin Road \$ 17,835
  - Project1: Estimated \$227,505
  - These numbers actually add up to \$242,168

**Art. 13. \$15,000 Upgrade Electrical Engine #3 System – 4 Favor with the REMOVAL of the word “APPROXIMATELY” 10 years, 3 Favor as written**

**Art. 14. Create an Orford Town Committee (elect) – 7 Favor to REVISE wording of Art 14 as follows:**

- Using 2020 Annual Report Art. 16. (with revisions) To see if the Town will vote to request the Orford Selectboard to form an “Orford Town Road Commission” made up of (7) seven members including (5) five resident-taxpayers with town roads, bridges, and heavy equipment experience, for the purpose of assisting and suggesting to both the Selectboard and Road Agent on issues that pertain to town highway garage building, roads, bridges, road equipment and vehicles, and any other items that fall under the Orford Road Department.
- We followed the current Road Commission recommendation; should consist of (7) seven people: The Road Agent, one (1) Selectboard Member, and five (5) Community Members to be appointed as follows: three (3) by the Selectboard and two (2) by the Budget Advisory Committee. Following the Road Commission Report to recommend a permanent appointed committee, consisting of 7 people, the Road Agent, 1 Selectboard Member, and 5 residents in the same manner as this committee.

**Art. 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$439,000 to purchase property . . . . . from the UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE – 7 Abstained**

- Need to verify property is still on the market, otherwise this is a mute request.
- If the asking price is \$389,000, why would the SB *pad* the request for an additional \$50,000 for closing cost?
- What articles that were passed and lapsed make up the unassigned fund balance?
- The BAC suggests that the Town of Orford agrees to purchase said property tax number 8-91-48 (14.9 acres), and the town’s offer is contingent on the following before closing:
  - Use Harry Burgess, Soil Scientist, to prepare said results of perk test soil samples to determine sand quality and quantity on this property before purchasing.
  - Determine if there are any environmental concerns on the property. Before purchase.
  - Is any of the property in current use before purchasing
  - Is there a Recorded Survey by a License Surveyor?
  - Perform Septic system inspection prior to purchase?
  - Are there any restrictions on the land before purchase?

**Art 16? The BAC recommends to add a Warrant Article: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to dispose of the current 1991 Fire Truck with the proceeds to go into the Fire Truck CRF (1989). – 7 Favor**

- BAC recommends (if needed) to add another warrant article to sell the 1991 Fire Truck. At the 2020 Annual Town Meeting, Art 13. To sell Engine #1 passed, but the Selectboard made the decision to keep the truck.
- BAC recommends Engine #1 be sold while it still has value.
- BAC recommends *Proceeds* from the sale of Engine #1 go into the *Fire Truck CRF*

Adjourned 7:33

Bill P Motion to adjourn, Bob P 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion Passed

Respectfully Submitted

Ruth Hook

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