

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Kevin Follensbee, Chase Kling

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Terry Straight

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

Fire Department 2024 Budget request

- Salaries increased by \$5,000 – the last time this line item was increased was in 2015
- Rent increased by \$2,400 – the rental agreement between the Town and the landlord (Orford Volunteer Firefighters, Inc) increased effective July 1, 2023, so in 2024 the total rent of \$10,800 will be realized.
- Utilities increased by \$1,000 – This line item includes heating oil, communications and electricity The increase is primarily for the anticipated increase for electricity.
- Vehicle Maintenance increased by \$2,000 – covers yearly maintenance, repairs and inspections
- Vehicle Fuel increased by \$600 due to the overall increase of diesel
- Training, Education and Mileage increased by \$1,000 – Class and instructor fees and mileage reimbursement to travel to trainings

Fire Department Warrant Articles

- None for 2024, however, the Rescue truck is scheduled for replacement in 2029 and may need to be ordered several years prior. It may be a warrant article in 2026

Highway Department 2024 Budget request

- Equipment Rental – the Highway supervisor needs to obtain a cost to rent an excavator for ditching in 2024
- Roadside Mowing – The Highway supervisor needs to reach out to the mowing contractor for an estimate for 2024 mowing
- Vehicle Maintenance – the Board agreed to reduce this from \$40,000 to \$35,000 as the Town will take ownership of the new 10-wheeler and 6-wheeler trucks in late 2023.
- Gasoline – this line item increased from \$500 to \$2,000 for the purchase of gasoline for the Explorer, leaf blower and chain saws
- Diesel – this line item was reduced by \$5,000
- Building Maintenance – this line item was reduced by \$2500
- Road Treatment – the line item was reduced by \$1,000, but the Highway supervisor needs to determine if any product can be ordered this year and held for use next year.
- Road Signs – the line item was increased by \$1,000

Highway Warrant articles

- The Selectboard discussed a possible warrant article to purchase a power broom

Misc. Departments & Committee Budgets:

Parks & Playgrounds

- The Board discussed adding funds to P&P Maintenance line item to cover the cost of repairing the Common and other Town Properties after the annual season ends. It was agreed the better option would be to use the Town Properties CRF to cover these costs and possibly add additional funding to this CRF
- Mowing – there was a slight increase based on the current mowing contract
- The remaining accounts were level funded

Planning Board

- Planning Assistant and Secretarial services – an increase of \$1,050 is requested. Dobbins-Marsh will reach out to obtain additional information from the Planning Assistant regarding the contract renewal.
- Legal – the line item increased from \$2,500 to \$4,000
- Stipends – the Planning Board requested the budget include stipends for the members in the amount of \$4,000, a laptop in the amount of \$5,000 and a camera in the amount of \$1,200.

Town Clerk

- Salaries - \$3,500 increased due to 3 elections for 2024, plus the Town and School meetings
- Postage - \$500 increase due to an increase of absentee ballots for elections

Election

- The overall budget increased \$4,500 for the 3 elections scheduled for 2024

Tax Collector

- Salaries increased \$3,500 based on the rate for taxes collected

Treasurer

- This account was level funded

Libraries

- The Free Library asked for their librarian to receive the same salary increase as the rest of the Town Employees, and to level fund their annual appropriation.
- The allocation to the Social Library matches what we contribute to the Free Library

Other Business:

Road Projects:

- Clough Brook culvert replacement is on schedule, with completion estimated for the end of October.
- Archertown Road Hill – the reclaiming started today. Paving scheduled for early November. Due to the building up of the road, the guardrails will need to be brought up higher. There is a driveway on Archertown Road that will need to be built up where we raised the road.

Curb Cuts – Kling met with Pierre Kozely at his property on River Road to review his curb cut applications. Kling presented a Stop Order to the Selectboard that he will send to Kozely to stop

construction of a studio until the curb cut has been approved, and his septic system design approved by the NH DES.

Adjourn

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Follensbee to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed 3/0

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh