



Town of Plaistow ♦ Budget Committee

145 Main Street ♦ Plaistow ♦ NH ♦ 03865

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting: January 3, 2023

Call to Order: 6:30pm

ROLL CALL:

Katie Knutsen, *Chair* - present
Doug Thompson, *Vice Chair* - present
Richard Anthony, *Budget Committee*- present
Theodore Carves, *Budget Committee* - excused
David Gerns, *Budget Committee* – present
John Sherman, *Budget Committee* – present
Roy Walling, *Budget Committee* – present
Darrell Britton, *Selectmen's Representative* - present
Jay DeRoche, *Selectmen's Alt* - present
Greg Colby, Town Manager/Finance Director - present

Agenda Item 4: Review/Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 13, 2022 meeting had been distributed in advance. It was noted the last word in the second to last line on page 1 should be 'so' not 'do'.

D. Thompson moved, second by J. Sherman to approve the minutes as written.

The motion was approved 5-0-2 (K. Knutsen, D. Britton)

Agenda Item 5: Public Comment

Ch. Knutsen invited public comment. There was none.

Agenda Item 7. Review of Warrant Articles:

OPERATING BUDGET – GENERAL FUND Article P-23-02: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant article and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$11,317,457? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$11,062,817 with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in

accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required). (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0)).

D. Britton moved, second by J. Sherman to approve the Operating Budget – General Fund for \$11,317,457

The motion was approved 7-0-0

J. Sherman offered a few suggestions to the Selectmen about the printed format of the article.

OPERATING BUDGET – WATER DEPARTMENT

Article P-23-03 Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget for the water department, not including appropriations by special warrant article and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$494,090? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$483,390 with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required)

Total Appropriation: \$494,090
Withdrawal from the Water Enterprise Fund: -\$494,090
No Amount to be raised by 2023 taxation: \$0

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0)).

D. Britton moved, second by J. Sherman to approve the Operating Budget – Water Department for \$494,090

J. DeRoche noted that the Budget Committee had voted on this article at the last meeting but that the Board of Selectmen adjusted the default amount

The motion was approved 7-0-0

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT (CBA) – Town Union Article P-23-04: Shall the Town of Plaistow vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) reached between the Town of Plaistow and the Plaistow Town Unit, Teamsters Local 633, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2023/2024	\$31,932.00
2024/2025	\$51,354.00
2025/2026	\$36,268.00

(Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (3-0-0))

D. Britton moved, second by J. Sherman to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement costs

J. Sherman asked if accurate balances of the funds would be available for the Public Hearing on January 10, 2023; G. Colby said they would be. R. Anthony asked why the 2024/2025 figure was larger than the others; J. Sherman said because the other figures were not for full years. J. DeRoche said this would be explained in the Voters Guide. G. Colby said the CBA was negotiated between the Union and Town officials in late Fall to arrive at the new contract.

The motion was approved 7-0-0

REPLACE VOTING MACHINES

Article P-23-06: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 for the purpose of replacing voting machines used to count ballots in Town, School, County, State and Federal elections? (Majority vote required)

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (4-0-0)).

D. Britton moved, second by R. Walling to approve \$12,000 to replace the voting machines

J. DeRoche noted this amount will purchase two machines which are being discontinued. The State does not reimburse this cost.

The motion was approved 7-0-0

Although the Budget Committee does not vote on it, Ch. Knutsen read the following Article as informational.

CITIZENS PETITION Article P-23-25: Shall the Town vote to approve the following modification to the Plaistow Zoning Ordinance Article IX, Signs Section 220-60.1. Integrated Commercial Residential District as Follows?

Add new Paragraphs E and F as follows:

1. E. Farms (as defined in New Hampshire RSA 21:34-a Farm, Agriculture, Farming) :1 on site thirty square foot freestanding sign is permitted. The freestanding sign and supporting structure may not exceed ten (10) feet in height. Each farm building shall also be allowed up to two signs attached to a building facade, provided that the following restrictions are met:

- 1) If both signs are attached to the same building facade, then the total square footage of both signs shall not exceed 10% of the building facade to which they are affixed.
- 2) If the signs are attached to different building facades, then one sign shall not exceed 5% of the facade to which it is affixed.
- 3) The building facade is calculated by measuring from roofline to foundation and subtracting out any glass.

F. All freestanding and attached signs on a Farm shall consist of wood construction only, shall be illuminated with indirect light and shall be in keeping with the agricultural character of the property.

G. Colby noted that on Warrant Article P-23-10 no Budget Committee vote is shown. The Budget Committee did vote to approve the Article 6-0-0 at the December 13, 2022 meeting, and this should be reflected in the final version of the Warrant.

J. DeRoche noted that at that meeting the Committee had approved two warrant articles for the Fire Department. He noted the Board of Selectmen removed the articles from the Warrant as the purchases will be made using ARPA funds. G. Colby said there is approximately \$200,000 left in ARPA funds which must be spent in 2024.

J. Sherman asked why in Article P-23-10 Police and Fire are combined when they are usually separated. R. Walling said it had been discussed at the last meeting and approval voted.

Agenda Item 8: New Business/Old Business

Ch. Knutsen asked about the discussion of reducing the Budget Committee size at the last meeting. The size of the current committee is set at 10 members; it was reduced to eight at the 2022 Town Meeting with the change going into effect in March 2023. D. Thompson noted that there have been three vacancies on the committee since he started his term and asked whether it should be reduced to seven or six members. It was suggested that six would be a good number. There was discussion of the numbers needed for a quorum. After discussion it was agreed to see how having an eight member committee works with meeting quorums.

Agenda Item 10: Adjournment

There was no additional business presented. The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlene Glorieux
Recording Secretary