

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Budget Committee
Unapproved Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

BUDGET COMITTE PRESENT: Judy Aron, John Balla, Jennifer Bland, Claudia Istel, Susan Metsack, Cheryl Sanctuary

BOARD OF SELECTMEN PRESENT: Kathi Bradt, Ryanne Schoonover

Others Present: Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator

Public:

CALL TO ORDER FOR MEETING: Susan Metsack called the meeting to order at 06:33PM

The January 15, 2025, meeting minutes we reviewed and there were changes that needed to be made. Jennifer Bland will make the changes to the minutes, and they will be reviewed at the next meeting on January 29, 2025.

When we were approving the minutes from January 15th it was discussed about “upsetting DES more than we already have” Jennifer Bland mentioned to the committee that the town has a good relationship with DES.

Claudia Istel & Cheryl Sanctuary are up for term renewals. Charlotte gave the paperwork to re-apply if they want to run for reelection.

The Fund balance was reviewed, and the Charlotte went over what is recommended by DRA to be in the towns fund balance. Currently we have ~240,000 in fund balance plus ~750,000 which was received from FEMA reimbursements in 2024 totaling 990,000. We are going to take 549,000 from fund balance towards the operating budget. Charlotte suggested that we keep 10% there, so that in the event of an emergency we have funds that we can access just like we did in the 2021 flood. (350,000 was accessed to start the repairs). It was suggested that we keep the fund balance higher than lower. If fund balance gets too high, we can always apply it to road projects that we would need to do. John asked if we could use some of the fund balance to keep the taxes lower.

The withdrawal of the Walpole from SAU 60 came up. Ryanne Schoonover explained this the start of a study not the actual withdrawal. Kathi advised that Langdon and Alstead are also putting warrant articles out to start the study like Walpole. Kathi explained this is just a study and this is nothing that is going to happen fast, Walpole is looking to withdrawal K-8 and not the Highschool. Ryanne thinks that the timeline for the study can be shortened, and she explained about the Dresden School in Lebanon. The study started in November and ended in June. Claudia explained about the district and how it was formed, and we can have better services for the students if you have a larger group of students.

For warrant article #2 Charlotte removed the recommendation since it is not monetary. Cherly Sanctuary asked what happens if this article does not pass, it was informed that we could reapply for the project, after we submit an extension, re apply to FEMA and get it back on the warrant article and on for town meeting or a special town meeting. Claudia asked if it is not approved will FEMA guarantee that the money will be there in a year and Judy Aron advised that there is no guarantee that the money will be there.

Claudia thanked Kathi and the Select Board and Charlotte for working so hard to put this budget together so carefully.

Next Meeting January 29, 2024

Meeting Adjourned: 19:24 PM Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Bland