

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Budget Committee
Approved Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

BUDGET COMITTE PRESENT: Judy Aron, Jennifer Bland, Conan Cook, Claudia Istel, Susan Metsack, Cheryl Sanctuary

BOARD OF SELECTMAN PRESENT: Kathi Bradt, Jim Jennison

OTHERS PRESENT: Gary Baber, Charlotte Comeau, Rob Devalk

CALL TO ORDER FOR MEETING: Susan Metsack called the meeting to order at 07:00PM

Previous Meeting Minutes were reviewed, CC asked that we remove the notation with regards to Walpole being reimbursed by FEMA from the flood. Walpole has not received reimbursement from FEMA for the July flood. This was removed from the January 3rd meeting minutes until we discuss it further.

Gary Baber came in to Speak about the Acworth Fire Company's proposed budget with the increase, He explained that costs have increased for everything. Gary stated that this software update is required and is the only way they can continue to operate. Gary reminded the committee that because the fire is company is private, they can't obtain grants like other departments putting them at a disadvantage for extra funding for additional trainings, equipment. Also, fire trucks have increased in price and the fire company has to replace the truck once it is 25 years old as they cant have a truck over 25 years old. There currently is a 2 year wait to purchase a new truck.

Warrant Articles were reviewed by the Budget Committee and will be reviewed again before it is voted on.

The flood loan and the interest were discussed as well as how it will be repaid. There are serious concerns and questions with the town receiving FEMA reimbursement. Will the town obtain any reimbursement soon? The committee wants to know where we stand with projects submitted as well as the projected projects that needs to be completed and this will be discussed with budget committee on Jan 18th. They would like to see a project plan from the Engineer.

Bridge Grant was discussed. The town is obtaining a quote for the Beryl Mountain Bridge repairs. Highway block grant was discussed and what it can be spent on. CC was going to obtain clarification on the highway block grant. JA advised that Highway block grant is based on population and not road miles.

Town Reevaluation was done in 2021, and property and home values wont change for three years.

The committee discussed moving funds from the capital reserve funds (Bridges) (Highway) to see if money can be re allocated to lower the tax rate.

Next Meeting January 18, 2023

Meeting Adjourned: 08:45PM Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Bland

JA made a motion to approve minutes and seconded by CI. Minutes were approved. JLB