

1 **Budget Committee**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **January 25, 2022**
4 **Citizens' Hall**
5 *Draft 1*
6

7 Chairperson Karen Grybko called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
8

9 Members present: Chairperson Karen Grybko, Arnie Byam, Vice Chair John Pomer,
10 Geoff Allen, Allyssa Lavoie, Fran Bujak, Selectmen's Rep. Bob Howe, and Kevin Boette
11

12 Present: Town Administrator Russ Boland, Bob Rogers and Sally Curran
13

14 **LIBRARY**

15 Library Trustees Sally Curran and Bob Rogers were present.

16 The Library Trustees meet the first Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. The public is
17 welcomed to attend their meetings. Ms. Curran said that if people can attend they are
18 welcomed to send an email with any suggestions or requests.
19

20 The Trustees were asked to come in for an informal discuss regarding the library. Some
21 of the topic discussed were program availability, hours of operation, restricted and
22 unrestricted funds, grants, salary increases, and downloadable book options.
23

24 *The meeting officially opened at 6:57 p.m.*
25

26 T/A Boland informed the Committee there was a catastrophic failure with the One Ton
27 Dump Truck. This topic will be on the Selectmen's Agenda for tomorrow night. He will
28 report back regarding the outcome of their discussion.
29

30 The ARPA Funds were discussion in length. The funds are \$182,000 and half has been
31 received. The balance is expected sometime in July.
32

33 The budget is up \$280,000. T/A Boland was asked if they have the ability to bring that
34 down and he answered, "Yes, with the Fund Balance". The DRA recommends carrying
35 between 5-16% and we try to have it between 5-10%. After taking out the people who
36 have not paid their taxes, then to run between \$290,000-\$330,000.
37

38 K. Boette said in his calculations the budget is up 16%. It will be hard to sit up here and
39 have the audience ask, 'Hey we are up a lot and why are we giving \$2,000 bonuses?'.
40 This was discussed. The Committee agreed they would like to see the increase reduced.
41

42 Geoff Allen said they heard from the Department Heads regarding what they needed line
43 by line. Now we need to look deeper to cut items.

44 Alyssa Lavoie said the School Budget is about a 3-4% increase; about \$1 million. The
45 school contracted wages are up \$12,000 and the budget is up between \$375,000-
46 \$420,000.

47
48 The Committee discussed items such as the NRPC Circuit Rider, building inspections,
49 paving budget, ARPA Funds, health insurance, NH Retirement Fund, the ambulance
50 services, broadband, the CIP and vehicles that need replacement soon.

51
52 Fran Bujak asked if they can use the \$91,000 in ARPA funds to cut the budget. K. Boette
53 suggested taking it out of the paving budget.

54
55 The Committee discussed if they want to vote on a contingency regarding the funds. It
56 was discussed to wait until after the Selectmen's meeting and after T/A Russ Boland
57 attends a meeting in which he will be updated on the ARPA Funds.

58
59 **VOTE: Kevin Boette moved to remove \$90,000 from line 4312-03-688 down to**
60 **\$110,000 from \$200,000 in anticipation of the Board of Selectmen using ARPA**
61 **Funds. Fran Bujak seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-2-0. Opposed John**
62 **Pomer and Bob Howe.**

63
64 John Pomer felt it is playing with the funds and asked what if after the meeting on
65 Thursday this can't happen as planned T/A Boland said since these funds were accepted
66 in 2021, the entire \$182,000 might have to go to Unreserved Fund Balance and
67 overspend that line. Options were discussed.

68
69 The budget drooped from a 16% increase to a 10% increase.

70
71 **VOTE: Arnie Byam made a motion to adjourn at 9:14 pm. Geoff Allen seconded the**
72 **motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

73
74 Respectfully Submitted,

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76
77
78
79 Kathleen Humphreys
80 Minute Taker
81