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**MINUTES OF THE
BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**MEETING OF
January 17, 2023**

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8

01) OPEN MEETING

9 The Municipal Budget Committee Meeting of Tuesday, January 17, 2022 was called to order at
10 7:00 PM at Salem Town Hall, 33 Geremonty Drive, Salem, NH.
11

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02) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

14 Chairman Goddu opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and introduction of members.
15

16
17

03) INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

18

MEMBERS PRESENT:

19 Steven Goddu, Chairman
20 Peter Edgerly
21 Jeff Boyer
22 D.J. Bettencourt
23 Tanya Donnelly
24 Donna Loranger
25

26

MEMBERS ABSENT:

27 Sean Lewis
28

29

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:

30 Bernie Campbell, School Board Representative
31 Selectman Bob Bryant, Board of Selectmen Representative
32

33

OTHERS PRESENT:

34 Maura Palmer, Superintendent of Schools
35 Deborah Payne, Assistant Superintendent for Business Operations
36 Darlene Mann, Director of Finance
37 Chris Dillon, Town Manager
38

39

01) CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

40 Chairman Goddu stated that the wrestled over the budget and asked the Board of Selectmen to
41 cut it back to a 5.5% increase. He was happy that they got down close to it and wanted to thank
42 them for that. Chairman Goddu stated that he hoped to get below the 5.5% mark for an increase.
43

44

02) RECEIPT OF MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

45 Mr. Boyer stated that they had received the following correspondence from the Town:

- 46
- Town of Salem

- 1 i. Kelley Library 2022 Budget
- 2 ii. Revised Town Warrant Articles
- 3 • School District
- 4 i. School Board Meeting Minutes of 12-20-2022

5
6 **MOTION by Mr. Boyer to accept receipt of the correspondence.**

7 **SECOND by Mr. Edgerly**

8 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**

9 **Motion passed unanimously.**

10
11 **03) PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL WARRANT ARTICLES**

12 Chairman Goddu opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 PM for the School Warrant Article.

13
14 There were no comments.

15
16 Chairman Goddu closed the Public Hearing at 7:06 PM

17
18 **04) 2023 SCHOOL WARRANT ARTICLES**

19 Chairman Goddu stated that he wanted to take care of the School Warrant Article first.

20
21 Mr. Campbell noted that there was no tax impact to this Warrant Article.

22
23 **MOTION by Mr. Campbell**

24 **Move the following Warrant Article with recommendation: Shall the Salem School**
25 **District vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement**
26 **reached between the Salem School Board and the Salem Association of Food Service**
27 **Personnel (SAFSP) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the**
28 **current staffing levels over those paid in the prior fiscal year. For the Year 2023-2024 the**
29 **estimated increase is \$78,453 which represented a \$1.25 across the board increase across all**
30 **steps. For the Year 2023-2024 the estimated increase is \$78,453 which represented a \$1.25**
31 **across the board increase in all steps plus a 4% wage scale increase. For 24-25 the**
32 **estimated increase is \$35,826 which is a 4% increase and 25-26 is a \$40,365 which is**
33 **projected as a 4% increase and further to raise and appropriate \$78,453 for the current**
34 **fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in**
35 **salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at**
36 **current staffing levels.**

37 **SECOND by Mr. Edgerly**

38 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**

39 **Motion passed unanimously.**

40
41 Mr. Campbell stated thank you to the Budget Committee for their consideration.

1 **05) PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWN WARRANT ARTICLES**

2 Chairman Goddu opened the Public Hearing at 7:08 PM

3
4 There was no public comment.

5
6 **MOTION by Mr. Bettencourt to close the Public Hearing.**

7 **SECOND by Mr. Bryant**

8 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**

9 **Motion passed unanimously.**

10
11 Chairman Goddu closed the Public Hearing at 7:09 PM.

12
13 **06) TOWN TAX IMPACT DISCUSSION**

14 Chairman Goddu stated that he wanted a clarification from the Town of what the tax increase
15 was if everything were to pass.

16
17 Ms. McGee stated that the estimate was a \$.29 increase. It was a 5.8% increase.

18
19 Chairman Goddu stated that the Board of Selectmen was at a 5.5% increase and then the
20 petitions raised it. He asked if that was correct.

21
22 Ms. McGee answered yes.

23
24 Mr. Bettencourt stated that he wanted to get clarification on how the DRA would review the
25 Warrant Articles. After the last meeting he had wanted someone to call DRA to see what their
26 answer was. Mr. Bettencourt wanted to know if what they were told was what would happen
27 with the tax rate.

28
29 Ms. McGee stated that with the new language it was clear that fund balance would be used if the
30 Warrant Article passed.

31
32 Mr. Bettencourt asked if the language was clear now.

33
34 Ms. McGee answered yes.

35
36 Manager Dillon stated that the Board rescinded their previous vote and adopted the language
37 clarifying that fund balance would be used for each Warrant Article.

38
39 Mr. Bettencourt asked if how that was how it was phrased in the past.

40
41 Manager Dillon stated that they had not necessarily done that in the past. It took away some
42 flexibility, but they did make the change.

43
44 Mr. Bettencourt stated that he appreciated that.

45
46 Mr. Campbell asked if they received something on fund balance.

1 Mr. Boyer stated that he had not included it under the Receipt of Correspondence.

2
3 Ms. McGee stated that it was an estimate.

4
5 Mr. Boyer gave Mr. Campbell a copy of what was received. He asked if they could amend his
6 prior motion.

7
8 Chairman Goddu stated that it would need a new motion. They were discussing the tax rate. The
9 bottom-line was that the Town would maintain the 6% goal for the fund balance even using this
10 amount.

11
12 Mr. Bettencourt stated that the Budget Committee would make a recommendation now. If there
13 was a change at Deliberative Session, then they could revisit the vote. If there was more revenue
14 that could be brought to be bear, then they would have the ability to adjust the Warrant Articles.
15 They could then reconsider their decision.

16
17 Mr. Campbell stated that it was only if the Warrant Article was amended.

18
19 Mr. Bettencourt stated that was correct.

20
21 Ms. Loranger asked if they got something in writing regarding the increase to the Meals and
22 Rooms Tax revenues.

23
24 Ms. Donnelly stated that she would follow-up to get the letter faster.

25
26 Chairman Goddu asked if everyone was clear on the tax rate impact now.

27
28 **MOTION by Mr. Boyer to accept receipt of the correspondence from the Town of Salem:**
29 **Recapitulation of the Fund Balance as of 12-31-22**
30 **SECOND by Mr. Edgerly**
31 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**
32 **Motion passed unanimously.**

33
34 **07) 2023 TOWN WARRANT ARTICLES**

35 Chairman Goddu stated that they would move to the Town Warrant Articles.

36
37 Selectman Bryant stated that they should start with the petitions.

38
39 **Article 19**

40 **MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

41 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
42 **with recommendation: By Petition: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of**
43 **Sixty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars (\$65,649), such sum representing**
44 **additional funds to be added to the Kelley Library Building Capital Reserve Fund?**

45 **SECOND: by Selectman Bryant**

1 Mr. Bettencourt stated that he would split his vote. The Kelley Library and the Municipal Budget
2 should be merged together. He would support the items in the Capital Budget. If they had been
3 part of the Town then they could have had fund balance applied. The stand should be made that
4 this should change.

5
6 Chairman Goddu stated that this year they did not have one for their raise. The message was that
7 they did not want to see this next time. It needed to be seen up front in the future so they could
8 be prepared when figuring out the tax increase.

9
10 Natalie Ducharme, Library Director, stated that it was separate by NH RSA. They were wrapped
11 together for voting. Legally they were separate entities and the Board of Selectmen and the
12 Library Trustees were peer boards. The Library could not move things through the Town so their
13 Warrant Articles had to be citizen petitions. They did not have access to the fund balance.

14
15 Mr. Bettencourt stated that it put them into a difficult position to have this come into play at this
16 late stage. It would be great if they could bring it in earlier in the process.

17
18 Ms. Ducharme stated that she hoped there were no capital items next year.

19
20 Manager Dillon stated that they did give a warning that a petition for the boiler Warrant Article
21 was coming when they presented their budget to the Budget Committee.

22
23 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**

24 **Motion passed unanimously.**

25
26 **Article 20**

27 **MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

28 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
29 **with recommendation: By Petition: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of**
30 **Thirty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$32,417) to maintain library**
31 **services at current or similar levels in addition to those funds included in the General Fund**
32 **operation budget?**

33 **SECOND: by Selectman Bryant**

34
35 Ms. Donnelly asked if this was not the Default Budget number.

36
37 Chairman Goddu stated that his number was based on the Default Budget number.

38
39 Kathleen Norton, Chair of the Library Trustees, stated that it was less than the Default Budget
40 number.

41
42 Chairman Goddu stated that they disagreed. He checked the number, and the Budget Committee
43 funded it at the Default number.

44
45 Ms. Donnelly asked why they were looking for the increase.

1 Ms. Norton stated that they were asking for the money back that was cut.

2
3 Chairman Goddu stated that it was a restoration article.

4
5 Mr. Campbell stated that the issue may be partly due to the fact that the staff raises were not
6 contractual.

7
8 Ms. Norton stated maybe.

9
10 Mr. Bettencourt stated that it was tough to get this unknown at this time. He felt that they should
11 not support it.

12
13 Ms. McGee covered the difference in the budget. It was an increase in electricity, heat, materials
14 of trade.

15
16 Ms. Ducharme stated that they put the COLA in the budget this year instead of in a Warrant
17 Article.

18
19 Mr. Boyer stated that if money came in later in the year, then the Kelley Library would not
20 benefit from that.

21
22 Chairman Goddu stated that was correct.

23
24 Selectman Bryant stated that it was tough for the Kelley Library for splitting their process. It had
25 been split for a long time. He would vote for it. It was just a restoration of the funds.

26
27 Ms. Loranger stated that she agreed with Bryant. They were their own function. It was a half of a
28 percent, so it was not worth their time discussing it. She would support it.

29
30 Mr. Bettencourt stated that the discussion was always worth it. Small percentages added up.
31 Everyone was going through challenges including taxpayers. He stated that they needed to find
32 the savings for the taxpayers. Mr. Bettencourt stated that he had to push back about this being
33 about supporting the Library. That was not what this discussion was about. He had supported the
34 Library's articles until now.

35
36 Chairman Goddu stated that he agreed with Mr. Bettencourt. He felt that they could live with the
37 Default Budget. This was just a recommendation and the voters might not follow it.

38
39 Ms. Donnelly stated that they did not cut below the Default Budget number.

40
41 **VOTE: 4-4-0 in favor.**

42 **Motion failed with Selectman Bryant, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Campbell and Ms. Loranger in favor.**

43
44 Mr. Bettencourt asked if they had the ability to go without recommendation for this item.

45
46 Mr. Campbell stated that he did not have a copy of the RSA but historically speaking, there were

1 several options. They were missing one member. If they knew how that member would likely
2 vote they could abstain in order for the vote to reflect how that member would have voted in
3 order to break the tie. They could also state that the Budget Committee made no recommendation
4 due to a deadlock. He could not state that they could abstain for certain.

5
6 Mr. Bettencourt stated that Mr. Lewis had always supported spending items so he would abstain
7 to create an uneven number.

8
9 **MOTION:** by Mr. Boyer

10 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
11 **with recommendation: By Petition: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum of**
12 **Thirty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Seventeen Dollars (\$32,417) to maintain library**
13 **services at current or similar levels in addition to those funds included in the General Fund**
14 **operation budget?**

15 **SECOND:** by Selectman Bryant

16 **VOTE: 4-3-1 in favor**

17 **Motion passed with Chairman Goddu, Mr. Edgerly, and Ms. Donnelly opposed and Mr.**
18 **Bettencourt abstaining.**

19
20 **Article 21**

21 **MOTION:** by Mr. Boyer

22 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
23 **with recommendation: By Petition: Shall the Town vote to allocate \$5,000 to Isaiah 58**
24 **New Hampshire for the purpose of providing assistance for housing and support services to**
25 **individuals and families in need of assistance?**

26 **SECOND:** by Mr. Edgerly

27
28 Mr. Campbell asked what the Board of Selectmen did with this Warrant Article.

29
30 Selectman Bryant stated that the Board of Selectmen supported it.

31
32 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**

33 **Motion passed unanimously.**

34
35 **Article 3**

36 **MOTION:** by Mr. Boyer

37 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
38 **with recommendation: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One**
39 **Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the purpose of wastewater planning work**
40 **relative to infiltration/inflow evaluations and sewer rehabilitation of the municipal sewer**
41 **system and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$100,000 of bonds or notes in**
42 **accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), and to authorize**
43 **the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of**
44 **interest thereon, and to further authorize the Selectmen to offset a portion of said**
45 **appropriation by applying for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan, it**
46 **being understood that repayment of the loan may include up to 100% principal**

1 **forgiveness. This project is contingent upon approval of a CWSRF loan application.**
2 **(Requires a 3/5 ballot vote.)**

3 **SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly**
4

5 Mr. Bettencourt stated that he supported it. The State did a lot of these loans and forgave them so
6 voters could be confident that it had no tax rate impact, and it brought a benefit to Salem.
7

8 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**

9 **Motion passed unanimously.**
10

11 **Article 5**

12 **MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

13 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
14 **with recommendation: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three**
15 **Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Two Dollars (\$394,972) to**
16 **maintain general government and recreation services at current or similar levels in**
17 **addition to those funds included in the General Fund operation budget, with \$248,616 to**
18 **come from unassigned fund balance?**

19 **SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly**
20

21 Mr. Bettencourt stated that he appreciated the effort to restore the cuts. The article was thin on
22 details for what the money did. He felt that this was a grab bag. It would bring the fund balance
23 up. This was the one he felt that they should say no to.
24

25 Manager Dillon stated that he was curious about increasing the unreserved fund balance.
26

27 Mr. Bettencourt stated that this seemed to be where the unreserved fund balance came from
28 when looking at lines that were unexpended.
29

30 Chairman Goddu stated that he felt that they needed to cut something to get to the 5.5% that the
31 Budget Committee wanted.
32

33 Selectman Bryant asked what one cent on the tax rate was.
34

35 Manager Dillon stated that it was roughly \$65,000.
36

37 Selectman Bryant asked what it did to the tax rate if this amount was removed.
38

39 Ms. McGee stated that it would drop to a 5.37% tax increase.
40

41 Manager Dillon stated that they looked at areas to cut. For this Article some of the areas that they
42 would be forced to reduce, they did not have the ability to cut because they were required to
43 provide those services. The services that were not required to be provided were in Community
44 Services. The cuts would be in recreation and would impact the hours of the Senior Center. He
45 wanted the Budget Committee to be aware of the impact that they would be reducing hours at the
46 Town Hall and the Senior Center. This brought them under the 5.5% that was their goal.

1 Mr. Bettencourt stated that the background was just two sentences. This information was helpful
2 but it was too late. There could have been more cooperation during this process. He was looking
3 to get to under 5.5% and this was the place to do it.

4
5 Chairman Goddu stated that he was not against the items. He was looking at the total to get
6 under the percentage. He did not see somewhere else to cut.

7
8 Selectman Bryant spoke about the Warrant Article using fund balance. They were really talking
9 about \$150,000 to be raised by the taxpayers. They should at least use the fund balance part.

10
11 Chairman Goddu stated that if a change was proposed that reduced the Warrant Article to just the
12 amount from fund balance then he would recommend it.

13
14 Selectman Bryant stated that his position was that they were really only asking for \$150,000
15 from the taxpayers and if that was a problem then they should reduce it to match the amount paid
16 for from fund balance so that it did not go away.

17
18 **VOTE: 3-5-0 in favor.**

19 **Motion failed with Selectman Bryant, Mr. Campbell and Ms. Loranger in favor.**

20
21 **MOTION: by Mr. Bettencourt**

22 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
23 **without recommendation: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three**
24 **Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Two Dollars (\$394,972) to**
25 **maintain general government and recreation services at current or similar levels in**
26 **addition to those funds included in the General Fund operation budget, with \$248,616 to**
27 **come from unassigned fund balance?**

28 **SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly**

29
30 **VOTE: 5-3-0 in favor.**

31 **Motion passed with Selectman Bryant, Mr. Campbell and Ms. Loranger opposed.**

32
33 **Article 6**

34 **MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

35 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
36 **with recommendation: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two**
37 **Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-Eight Dollars (\$275,978) to**
38 **maintain police services at current or similar levels in addition to those funds included in**
39 **the General Fund operation budget, with \$173,715 to come from unassigned fund balance?**

40 **SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly**

41
42 Mr. Bettencourt stated that he would support this Article. It was a good balance between use of
43 fund balance and protecting public safety. He was still disappointed that they could not get more
44 information on their hiring efforts to fill the vacant positions.

45
46 Chairman Goddu stated that there were six vacant officer positions that would probably not be

1 filled would offset the taxpayer cost.

2
3 Mr. Bettencourt stated that he hoped that they filled the positions.

4
5 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**

6 **Motion passed unanimously.**

7
8 **Article 7**

9 **MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

10 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
11 **with recommendation: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two**
12 **Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars (\$242,956) to maintain fire**
13 **services at current or similar levels in addition to those funds included in the General Fund**
14 **operation budget, with \$152,929 to come from unassigned fund balance?**

15 **SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly**

16
17 Mr. Bettencourt stated that he would support this for the same reasons he supported the prior
18 Article. He felt that the background was unfair because he did not believe that the Town would
19 let the North Fire Station close for any period of time. There were some areas where savings
20 could be leveraged but they had done a good job of leveraging fund balance.

21
22 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**

23 **Motion passed unanimously.**

24
25 **Article 8**

26 **MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

27 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
28 **with recommendation: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-**
29 **Eight Thousand Three Hundred Five Dollars (\$78,305) to maintain transfer station services**
30 **at current or similar levels in addition to those funds included in the General Fund**
31 **operation budget, with \$49,289 to come from unassigned fund balance?**

32 **SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly**

33
34 Mr. Bettencourt stated that he would support it because it used fund balance, and he did not want
35 to be in violation of the contract. They should look into other options which would help prevent
36 the volatility of the rates. He pushed back against the over-the-top suggestions made by people
37 like closing the transfer station.

38
39 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**

40 **Motion passed unanimously.**

41 **Article 9**

42 **MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

43 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
44 **with recommendation: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty**
45 **Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars (\$40,434) for the purpose of purchasing two**
46 **(2) turf mowers for the Public Works Division for daily operations of ground maintenance**

1 **at Town facilities, parks, properties, and cemeteries, with \$25,451 to come from unassigned**
2 **fund balance?**

3 **SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly**
4

5 Mr. Bettencourt stated that he was opposed to this. There should be no tax impact. It could have
6 used ARPA funds or been fully funded by fund balance. One-time items were the best use of
7 fund balance.

8
9 Mr. Boyer asked about the tax impact.
10

11 Ms. McGee stated it was 5.37% based on the Budget Committee's earlier recommendation.
12

13 Mr. Boyer stated that he had seen the mowers. It was necessary to replace them. He would
14 support it.
15

16 Mr. Bettencourt stated that Ms. McGee's number was an estimate so a buffer would be good.
17 The issue was not the need but how they were paid for. He felt that they could have included this
18 one as well when using ARPA funds.
19

20 Ms. Donnelly stated that she agreed that this should have been done with ARPA funds. She did
21 not see why it was a Warrant Article. She asked why it was \$15,000.
22

23 Manager Dillon stated that it was \$40,434. If it was not done as a Warrant Article then they
24 would not have used fund balance for it.
25

26 Mr. Bettencourt stated that it would have been helpful to know what the plan for using the ARPA
27 funds was. Maybe the Board did not know what they would use the money for because they had
28 not had the conversation yet.
29

30 Chairman Goddu stated that he did not want to fight over \$15,000.
31

32 Mr. Boyer stated that if he had not seen the information on these mowers during the CIP process,
33 he would not have supported this. He had seen it and knew they were needed.
34

35 Ms. Donnelly stated that everyone supported the mowers, it was a matter of how they were paid
36 for.
37

38 **VOTE: 6-2-0 in favor.**

39 **Motion passed with Ms. Donnelly and Mr. Bettencourt opposed.**
40

41 **Article 10**

42 **MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

43 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
44 **with recommendation: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five**
45 **Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$536,850) for the replacement**
46 **of and improvements to the Roof at the Salem District Court House located at 35**

1 **Geremonty Drive, Salem, NH, with \$536,850 to come from unassigned fund balance?**

2 **SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly**

3
4 Mr. Bettencourt stated that he would support it. The Court House was a revenue generator and
5 should be maintained. They had made a commitment to the State. The taxpayers would benefit
6 from having the District Court in Salem with the State as a tenant here.

7
8 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**

9 **Motion passed unanimously.**

10
11 **Article 11**

12 **MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

13 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
14 **with recommendation: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine**
15 **Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Ninety-Six Dollars (\$945,096) to purchase a Fire Engine-**
16 **Pumper and related equipment for the Fire Department, with \$747,885 to come from**
17 **unassigned fund balance and \$197,211 to come from public safety impact fees?**

18 **SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly**

19
20 Mr. Bettencourt stated that this was an excellent use of impact fees. He did not have issue here.

21
22 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**

23 **Motion passed unanimously.**

24
25 **Article 12**

26 **MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

27 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
28 **with recommendation: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three**
29 **Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$375,000) to be placed in the Snow Expendable**
30 **Trust Fund previously established in 1998 for the purpose of managing winter weather,**
31 **including but not limited to plowing and removing snow, sanding and chemically treating**
32 **streets, and otherwise responding to hazardous road conditions related to winter weather?**

33 **SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly**

34
35 Mr. Bettencourt asked what the “including but not limited to” meant.

36
37 Ms. McGee stated that it was tree removal and weather emergencies. The money could be used if
38 there was a declared state of emergency for a weather event.

39
40 Mr. Bettencourt stated that the language could be clearer.

41
42 Ms. McGee stated that it could only be used for the items listed in the purpose of the fund.

43
44 Mr. Campbell stated that the language was not amended to include the use of fund balance in the
45 sheet he had.

1 Mr. Bettencourt stated that it was amended at the Board of Selectmen Meeting earlier this
2 evening.

3
4 Mr. Campbell stated that it was in the new copy he was given now.

5
6 Mr. Boyer stated that he read the wrong version.

7
8 **Motion withdrawn.**

9 **2nd withdrawn.**

10
11 **MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

12 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
13 **with recommendation: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three**
14 **Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$375,000) to be placed in the Snow Expendable**
15 **Trust Fund previously established in 1998 for the purpose of managing winter weather,**
16 **including but not limited to plowing and removing snow, sanding and chemically treating**
17 **streets, and otherwise responding to hazardous road conditions related to winter weather,**
18 **with \$200,000 to come from unassigned fund balance?**

19 **SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly**

20
21 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**

22 **Motion passed unanimously.**

23
24 Selectman Bryant asked if the Board had addressed the Road Program Warrant Article.

25
26 Manager Dillon answered yes.

27
28 **Article 13**

29 **MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

30 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
31 **with recommendation: Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town**
32 **Meeting Warrant/Ballot with recommendation: Shall the Town vote to raise and**
33 **appropriate the sum of Three Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,800,000) to be**
34 **added to the Roadway Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 1990 for the purpose**
35 **of repair and/or reconstruction of existing roads and associated drainage improvements,**
36 **and engineering? Shall the Town further authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept any**
37 **and all State Aid or other revenue source that may become available for this work and to**
38 **take any other action relative thereto including acquiring or conveying interests in real**
39 **property necessary to complete the work? The funds will be used for the improvement,**
40 **reconstruction, maintenance, crack sealing, and engineering of roads as outlined in the 10-**
41 **year road program.**

42 **SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly**

43
44 Mr. Bettencourt stated that they had a big kerfuffle last year about this. Although the voters did
45 not support the Budget Committee's recommendation, he felt that their sentiments were heard. It
46 was reduced so he would support it.

1 Chairman Goddu stated that he would support it because it was a compromise.

2
3 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**

4 **Motion passed unanimously.**

5
6 **Article 14**

7 **MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

8 **Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot**
9 **with recommendation: Shall the Town vote to approve the cost items included in the**
10 **collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the members**
11 **of the Local #1801, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees**
12 **(AFSCME), which call for the following changes to salaries and benefits at the current**
13 **staffing level and the addition of two new employees included in the 2023 operating budget:**

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase/Decrease	Explanation
2023	\$211,491 Increase	Placement in new wage schedule April 1, 2023 Reduction in max sick leave accrual
2024	\$120,947 Increase	3.50% salary adjustment April 1, 2024 Reduced of cost share of one health plan
2025	\$138,599 Increase	3.50% salary adjustment April 1, 2025
2026	\$134,496 Increase	3.50% salary adjustment April 1, 2026
2027	\$144,304 Increase	3.50% salary adjustment April 1, 2027

23
24 **and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$211,491, such sum representing the**
25 **anticipated increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement from what**
26 **would be paid under the current agreement at current staffing levels?**

27 **SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly**

28
29 Mr. Bettencourt stated that he would be a no on this Warrant Article. He would probably lose.
30 There was an estimate that 64% to 68% of the budget was personnel costs. It boxed in their
31 ability to make changes. Mr. Bettencourt felt that the contracts needed to be scrutinized more
32 closely. Some of these changes looked reasonable but some looked large. This also hit the water
33 and sewer rates. They had to really think carefully about these contracts because personnel tied
34 up a lot of the budget.

35
36 Mr. Campbell stated that he was not sure that the right amount was read for 2023.

37
38 Chairman Goddu stated that they agreed on the 2023 amount being what was written and shown
39 on the screen.

40
41 **VOTE: 7-1-0 in favor.**

42 **Motion passed with Mr. Bettencourt opposed.**

Article 15**MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot with recommendation: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$11,200) for the purpose of funding the costs to hold a special election to elect a Town Council to be held in accordance with the proposed Municipal Charter, Article 10? Funding for this purpose is contingent upon Article 2 passing approving the Town Charter as recommended by the Charter Commission.

SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly**VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.****Motion passed unanimously.****Article 16****MOTION: by Mr. Boyer**

Move to forward the following article to the 2023 annual Town Meeting Warrant/Ballot with recommendation: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund, previously established in accordance with New Hampshire RSA Chapter 31:19-c for the purpose of paying for other post-employment benefits to employees and their beneficiaries after their termination of service as provided in the law and administrative expenses, with \$40,000 to come from unassigned fund balance, \$5,000 from the sewer fund, and \$5,000 from the water fund?

SECOND: by Mr. Edgerly

Mr. Bettencourt stated that he would support it because it did not have a tax rate impact and the background spoke about maintaining their credit rate. It was a good investment.

VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**Motion passed unanimously.****08) SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE**

Mr. Campbell stated that they had a meeting scheduled for Thursday where they were considering approval of renovations at the Haigh School. They would expect the work to happen during the summer and the cost would be a little over \$2.5 million. The renovations would include HVAC work, new bathrooms for the preschool classrooms, some security improvements, and moving the electrical line. The Woodbury project was moving along. They would be able to open the new classrooms and put an end to the classrooms in the small gymnasium in the first few days of February. The work continued on the new entrance. They had not had a lot of winter weather impacting the construction.

Chairman Goddu asked how much of the work at the Haigh School would be paid for by the taxpayers.

Mr. Campbell answered at this point it was zero.

1 Chairman Goddu stated that he liked that answer.

2
3 Mr. Bettencourt stated that he had pieced together from the answers at the last few meetings that
4 the Woodbury project was ahead of schedule and under budget.

5
6 Mr. Campbell stated that they had hoped to be further along by six weeks.

7
8 Mr. Boyer stated that it was encouraging to hear that the Haigh School renovations would have
9 no impact on the tax rate. He asked if any ESSER funds would be left over.

10
11 Mr. Campbell stated that there may still be some ESSER 2 money leftover in the amount of
12 \$200,000 or so.

13
14 Selectman Bryant stated that he had no update.

15
16 Ms. Loranger asked about having the Haigh school ready before school opened in September.

17
18 Mr. Campbell stated that the work to allow school usage would finish before the start of the
19 school year but not the project itself.

20
21 Mr. Bettencourt stated that it was good to have Selectman Bryant back in person after his health
22 issues.

23
24 Chairman Goddu stated that the next meeting was Deliberative Session on February 4th.
25 Changes to the Warrant Articles could be made then. He asked voters to please come to that
26 meeting and the School District Deliberative Session meeting on February 9th. Both meetings
27 were at Salem High School.

28
29 **MOTION by Mr. Edgerly to adjourn the meeting at 8:33PM.**

30 **SECOND by Selectman Bryant**

31 **VOTE: 8-0-0 in favor.**

32 **Motion passed unanimously.**

33
34 Minutes recorded by: Jeremiah Lamson

35
36 Approved: Budget Committee

37
38 Date: March 22, 2023, as amended