

**UNAPPROVED
PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET MEETING
September 12th, 2020**

Note: Individual roll call has been taken after each motion.

Attendance: Chairman Susan Young, Vice-Chair Brien Brock, Selectman Boyd Chivers, Selectman Russ Dann, Selectman Patrick Moran, Accounting and Payroll Specialist Donna Becker, and Administrative Assistant Linda Chandonnet.

8:05 am. Chair Young called the Public Meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call was conducted

Ambulance: Fire Chief Young stated there is two more years on the contract and it is still at zero for 2021 & 2022 as Mike Kelly had renewed the contract one year ago. Resulting amount of \$1.00 at the 2021 line.

Animal Control: Selectman Chivers asked why the wage line went up 73%? Accounting and Payroll Specialist Becker replied, that because of the ACO (Animal Control Officer) has been more hands on and coming in regularly she is doing more of her job and also available during the day. Previously ACO's have not been in the past, so Police Officers were doing the job during the day and the ACO would pick up the work at night. She is able so she is doing more of her job and what she needs to do and frees up the Police to do their own jobs. Therefore, she is working more hours.

Selectman Dann moved to make a motion and accept the Animal Control budget in the amount of \$6,858. Seconded by Selectman Chivers. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Auditing Services: Accounting and Payroll Specialist Becker emailed Plodzick and Sanderson and asked if they were going up and they replied they are going up to \$18,000. They are doing a great job, are wonderful to work with and does not see a reason to change them.

Selectman Chivers moved to make a motion and accept the Auditing Services budget in the amount of \$18,000. Seconded by Selectman Moran. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Budget Committee: Chair Young stated this is level funded this year.

Selectman Dann moved to accept the 2021 Budget Committees budget in the amount of \$2,362. Seconded by Chair Young. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Building Inspector: Selectman Chivers said the only amount that went up was the Building Inspectors phone and somehow, he ended up with a free phone. Building Inspector Gagne explained that the Town already had a list of phones that came out of cycle so there were some that were free available. It is a google phone and has a great camera that he can download pictures and save the data. Selectman Dann asked if he could work this budget? Building Inspector with the budget and is currently working on his certifications and current licenses all updated.

Selectman Chivers moved to accept the Building Inspectors budget in the amount of \$128,944. Seconded by Chair Young. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Cemetery: Cemetery Trustees were not present. Selectman Brock said the amount has gone up due to increasing the Cemetery Maintenance, Bob Panit's wages. There is also added a new part time employee of 10 hours a week as well as software. Discussion ensued about the 2% Cola notation on the spreadsheet. The Board agreed they will table this discussion until later.

Conservation Commission: Chair Young stated the Conservation Commission is level funded. Selectman Chivers moved to accept the 2021 Conservation Commission budget in the amount of \$2,712. Seconded by Selectman Brock. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Direct Assistance: Selectman Chivers said to move the line as requested. Selectman Dann moved to approve the 2021 Direct Assistance budget in the amount of \$10,000. Seconded by Selectman Chivers. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Election/Voter Registration: Chair Young stated that this increased due to the raises that they were given. They always plan for an extra election is required and add extra money in-case something happens to someone and they need it. Selectman Chivers moved to approve the Election/Voter Registration budget in the amount of \$6,514 Seconded by Selectman Moran. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Election Administration: Chair Young said that this amount has gone down because we are less one person. Selectman Chivers moved to approve the Election Administration budget in the amount of \$10,000. Seconded by Selectman Dann. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Emergency Management: Chair Young stated this is level funded and the same as last year. Selectman Chivers moved to accept the 2021 proposed Emergency Management budget in the amount of \$3,000. Seconded by Selectman Brock. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Fire Department/Forestry: Accounting and Payroll Specialist Becker stated on the Communication Maintenance line it should read \$7,000 and add \$5,000 to the total on bottom line. Fire Chief Young explained there is a new added line on the budget for dispatch. They are a Police dispatch and do have a consult to the fire department. Londonderry is looking for Towns to dispatch for. None of this could have happened if a resident, Ed Cunningham who lives at Tower Hill and has a tower offered us space on that tower and has sold the Fire Department two frequencies which is receive and transmit on that tower and allow them to hit Londonderry. Otherwise they never would have been able to do that. They bought them for \$5,000 which is a steal. They were ambulance frequencies that are no longer being used and were offered to Candia. Ed has been a very good friend to the Fire Department as well as on the communications side and is always helpful. Without that tower and frequencies, they probably would never have been able to think of this. Fire Chief Young explained that he had a conversation with someone who questioned about possibly leaving Rockingham and going with someone else? That is when he

replied back to gather all the information and ask the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee before it can be done. It would be a line item

Part of the money requested is to reimburse Ed Cunningham to pay rent to use space on his tower. Candia is currently using Rockingham and they are looking change and to have Londonderry dispatch us. Therefore, the remainder amount is to pay a dispatch fee to pay Londonderry and leave Rockingham. Chair Young asked if that would be a contract with Londonderry and if the amount could go up every year. Fire Chief Young replied it would be an agreement, but he did not know if it would go up in price, and it could possibly go up. It would basically enable them to be better and in some cases, it could be a safety issue and is something they would like to do. Because they have the infrastructure If they wanted to, they could get someone to tie into the frequencies and with Candia and it could cut down our cost.

Selectman Dann moved to accept the 2021 Fire Department/Forestry budget in the amount of \$184,291. Seconded by Selectman Brock. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Health Officer:

Selectman Chivers moved to accept the 2021 Health Officer budget in the amount of \$1,000. Seconded by Selectman Brock. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Heritage Commission:

Selectman Chivers moved to accept the 2021 Heritage Commission budget in the amount of \$600.00. Seconded by Selectman Brock. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Highway Department: Road Agent Lewis noted that there are a few overages for the culverts budget line, but this is a one-time overage from when they had culvert failure on North Road. DS had gave them permission to replace those, however we had to submit the plans after the fact, so a lot of that \$8,000 overage went to doing the calculations for what they put in there and doing the calculations for any future improvements, because they are going to have to add another culvert there due to the volume of water of the new dam configuration on the pond. The mowing budget line is over. In regard to winter, they are in great shape as they still have over 33% left for December and money from the warrant article. The only two things they need to discuss is he wants to add a line in his budget or the Selectmen's for road research. This way they can start to figure out the issues on class VI roads, who owns them and what is the reality of them. He tried 10 years ago with no good results is that they received a lot of opinions, but they need facts. This way when someone comes in here, they know the exact width and status of that class VI road. He would like to \$5,000-\$6,000 to get started and can be from his or the Selectmen's budget. He believes we needs some hard facts, so we know exactly where we stand. He wanted to know what the Selectmen thought. Nothing is on the budget for Jane Drive for the drainage problem. Chair Brock stated that he does not have a problem with adding a line for \$5,000 as Road Research. The only other issue Road Agent Lewis said he has is on New Boston Road and the erosion issue. If for some reason we do not end up with a solution there with the developer, somehow, we are going to have to step in and mitigate that erosion problem. In the next few months, we need to make sure we have a handle on that or we are going to have to pay for it because if we keep getting storms and he keeps coming down to North Road someone has to fix it. We need to get a bond on this before the developer goes too much further here and that there is a solution before winter on the erosion. The developer has moved back in there last Thursday and started mucking out one of the ponds and doesn't know what he is doing with the silt, but if he is piling it up on the sides it

will erode and go back in there. We need to make sure he is not working there until there is a bond in place and there is an approved plan from DES and his alteration terrain permit and Stantec's request to satisfy before he starts to do anything.

Building Inspector Gagne added that he did a site walk inspection. He received a call from Dan Cortino stating that he is trying to be proactive and get some of the work done ahead. Building Inspector Gagne was not aware that there was no DES received as of yet. We had put the restriction of building any new construction, but he did not know there was a restriction to do any work.

Selectman Chivers said the cease and desist letter that the Town's Attorney sent him stated that we are not going to rescind the cease and desist order until he complies with certain conditions.

One of the conditions was he addressed one of the deficiencies that Stantec was to correct some drainage issues on Lot 1-1-1, which is separate from where the construction is occurring. If you read the letter carefully, he has really tried to address some of those concerns that were raised in that cease and assist order. It looks like he had the authority to go there and try fix that. We are not certain of what he is was doing there and if it was something Stantec would have approved of.

Road Agent Lewis noted that he has read all of the letters and could not find where he had permission to go there and try to remedy those issues until he posted a bond and had a plan in place. He added that Mr. Contigo needs to be given a reminder that he needs to post a bond before he starts the work. If for some reason none of this takes place, we will need to be the ones that are going to have to have the funds to remedy this situation. We are the ones who are going to have to pay for this in one way or another. Whether it is him out of North Road or the Resident's behind there.

Selectman Russ moved to accept the 2021 Highway Department budget in the amount of \$649,934. Seconded by Selectman Chivers. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Insurance: This discussion will be tabled until the next Board Meeting.

Legal Expenses: Chief Young said she asked to have it all separated so we can see how much we are spending on each one. Compliance issues vs. legal fees.

Selectman Russ moved to accept the 2021 Legal Expense budget in the amount of \$40,000. Seconded by Selectman Brock. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Other Culture and Recreation – Summer Rec/Ski Program:

Selectman Chivers moved to approve the 2021 Other Culture and Recreation – Summer Rec/Ski Program budget in the amount of \$3.00. Seconded by Selectman Brock. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Parks & Rec – Moore Park:

Selectman Brock moved to approve the 2021 Parks and Rec budget in the amount of \$31,000. Seconded by Selectman Moran. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Planning Board: Chair Young said she would like to take out the Master Plan of \$10,000 out and put it back into a warrant article.

Selectman Chivers moved to lower the Master Plan by \$10,000 and approve a 2021 Planning Board budget in the amount of \$5,276. Seconded by Chair Young. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Police: Chief McGillen stated he added \$45,000 to replace an officer. As of right now he has 6 full time employees and he would like to go back to 7. The Board agreed to order a new police cruiser every year and add additional \$17,250 to line New Cruiser.

Selectman Brock moved to accept the 2021 Police Department budget in the amount of \$791,299. Seconded by Selectman Moran. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Property Appraisal: Accounting and Payroll Specialist Becker stated the increase is due to the new assessing company of Whitney Consulting Group.

Selectman Chivers moved to accept the 2021 Property Appraisal budget in the amount of \$30,000. Seconded by Selectman Brock. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Solid Waste:

Selectman Dann moved to approve the 2021 Solid Waste budget in the amount of \$443,130. Seconded by Selectman Chivers. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Street Lighting:

Selectman Chivers moved to accept the 2021 Street Lighting budget in the amount of \$6,150. Seconded by Chair Young. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Selectman Dann added that the Energy and Recycling is looking to see about changing our street lights to LED and will be coming to the Board. There is an upfront cost but will be a big savings.

Tax Collector: Accounting and Payroll Specialist Becker stated for Deputy Tax Collector is incorrect and should read \$9,000. That would change the bottom line number to \$30,718.

Selectman Brock moved to accept the 2021 Street Lighting budget in the amount of \$30,718. Seconded by Selectman Chivers. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Town Building Expenses: This discussion will be tabled until the next Board Meeting.

Town Clerk: Chair Young added that there has been some conversation about going from a fee based to an hourly based salary for the Town Clerk. To do that we have to go to the legislative body which is a Town Meeting. The reason is because if someone is not in and still getting paid, they would not have money to pay someone else. This would need to be a warrant article. Accounting and Payroll Specialist Becker said they have added some money to put in the budget to pay someone part time because they are not sure of when they will having their Town Clerk back to work safely.

Selectman Chivers moved to accept the 2021 Town Clerk budget in the amount of \$470,814. Seconded by Selectman Brock. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Town Officers Expenses: Chair Young stated she added the Webmaster an increase in pay and does a great job. Discussion ensued on getting the Town Office a Town Administrator and added the line to \$170,106. A Covid Supplies line has been added for \$1,000. Selectman Chivers addressed replacing Vision and BMSI and our Accounting Software. Planning Department Administrative Assistant Galica explained the current computer systems and how they do not work well together and possibly replacing them so that these programs integrate smoothly. She will research and find out more detailed information along with all the costs.

Selectman Moran moved to accept the 2021 Town Officers Expense in the amount of \$370,976. Seconded by Selectman Dann. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Treasurer:

Selectman Brock moved to accept the 2021 Treasurer budget in the amount of \$12,470. Seconded by Selectman Moran. All were in favor. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Welfare:

Selectman Dann moved to accept the 2021 Welfare budget in the amount of \$9,898. Chair Young seconded for discussion. Discussion ensued for the direct assistance (on page 2). Selectman Dann rescind the motion. Selectman Brock stated if Welfare Officer DelRosso would like to come in and explain the increased amount she may do so. Selectman Dann and Chair Young rescinded their motion.

Selectman Dann moved to accept the 2021 Welfare budget in the amount of \$7,049. Seconded by Selectman Moran. All were in favor. Motion carried. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

ZBA: Accounting and Payroll Specialist Becker stated because of legal notices and that they had a lot of zoning cases this year come before them and it has to be noticed and they want to raise that to make sure they are covered for their legal noticing costs.

Selectman Chivers moved to accept the 2021 ZBA budget in the amount of \$1,231. Seconded by Selectman Dann. All were in favor. Motion carried. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

Accounting and Payroll Specialist Becker announced the bottom line is \$3,236,697. this is a 8.95% increase.

Selectman Dann moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Selectman Moran. All were in favor. Motion carried. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0-0.

9:44 pm. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Chandonnet
Recording Secretary