Town of Tuftonboro

Budget Committee Meeting

January 16, 2024

Present: Rob Roriston, Gary Chehames, David Dauphinais, Brendan Gaughran, Chris Sawyer, and Selectman Albee, also present were Selectman Murray, Selectman Pike and Town Administrator Fraizer

Excused: Jeff Reisner

Chairman Roriston called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

It was determined there was a quorum followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Public Input**: Selectman Pike informed the Committee that the American Legion no only places flags on the cemetery stones of Veterans but also replaces the flag at the Town House.

**Chairman Roriston Comments:** Chairman Roriston noted it was a reduced agenda and that time would be spent discussing the highway department which was held from the previous meeting. Rob presented a Department Cost Breakout. The Board discussed having it as a handout for the Public Hearing. Gary Chehames made a suggestion of sorting it with the by percentage descending. Rob will work on the model and have an update for the committee’s review.

**Budget Items for Approval**

Chairman Roriston called for a vote on each of the following budgets:

**4150 Finance Administration / Tax Collector** in the amount of $182,760. Chris Sawyer made a motion to approved, the motion was seconded by Brandon Gaughran. Chairman Roriston asked about what the software budget was for. Town Admin Fraizer said it is for the finance software, MuniSmart and Avitar software which is used by the Tax Collector and Assessing. The motion passed unanimously.

**4155 Personnel Administration** in the amount of $811,854. Chris Sawyer made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by Gary Chehames. The motion passed unanimously.

**4194 Municipal Buildings** in the amount of $155,353. Chris Sawyer made a motion to approved, the motion was seconded by Brandon Gaughran. The motion passed unanimously.

**4199 General Government** in the amount of $500. David Dauphinais made a motion to approved, the motion was seconded by Brandon Gaughran. The motion passed unanimously.

**4312 Highways & Streets** the budget request was for $721,700 and the Board of Selectmen approved a budget of $841,800. Several members of the Budget Committee were not comfortable with the growth and fear factor of storms that may or may-not occur. After much discussion on individual line items and the use of the Contingency Fund which will be a warrant article, Chris Sawyer mad a motion to approve the 4312 Highway and Streets budget in the amount of $679,300. The motion was seconded by Gary Chehames. Selectman Albee abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

**Review of Budget Items**

**4324 Solid Waste**: The board reviewed the 2024 requested budget. It appeared reasonable and they did not have any questions.

**4619.1 Other Conservation; Agricultural Commission:** will be addressed at the next meeting

**Board of Selectman’s (BoS) Update**

Selectman Albee discussed the Solar warrant article. The Budget Committee would like to see a prospectus from the firms bidding on the project before they are ready to support the project.

There was brief discussion about the warrant articles. The Selectmen had not voted on any of the articles. It was determined to have an additional meeting on January 29th as time is tight before the public hearing. Town Administrator Fraizer committed to send the Budget Committee the warrant articles immediately after the Board of Selectmen discuss them at their meeting on January 23, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Fraizer