

## **Town of Danbury**

### **Municipal Budget Committee – Meeting Minutes**

**November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Call to Order 6:30 pm

Members present: Lenny Ryan, Anna Hullinger, Jessica Hatch (Selectman's rep), Doug Boisvert, Laura Upton Baker, Tracy Feinaur

Public attendees: Bonnie Fletcher, Karen Padgett, Tracy Shepard

Old business:

Minutes from November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

Doug to send approved minutes to Jessica to be posted on the Town of Danbury website.

Lenny motioned to accept minutes, Laura 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved by voice vote.

New business:

Historical Society:

Bonnie Fletcher came in to discuss the requested increase of \$100.00 for utilities and operating expenses for the 2023 budget. Bonnie discussed upcoming maintenance and repairs that will need to be done to the building including a new roof. Estimated cost to replace roof is \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 Roof replacement funding will be raised by fundraising by the Historical Society. Total requested appropriation for 2023 is \$800.00

Will be voted on at a later date.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector:

Tricia Taylor came in to discuss the requested increase of \$500.00 for the computer supplies line. Increase is due to software package price increase. Discussion about internet charges increase of \$200.00, total budget request increase of \$700.00, total requested appropriation for 2023 is \$50,714.00

Will be voted on at a later date.

Police Department:

Chief Warn came in to discuss budget request for the Police department.

Two options presented:

Option #1 would be for two part time police officers for a total of 40 hours per week.

Option #2 would be for one part time police officer for a total of 24 hours per week.

Presented two options not knowing what the town of Danbury wants to have for police coverage.

Chief discussed police coverage by NH State Police and their current response time to calls for Danbury area.

Discussed changes to new law in regards to training requirements for certifying police officers.

Discussion on current environment of hiring police officers and shortage thereof.

Option #1 would be an increase of \$48,045.00 for a total requested appropriation for 2023 is \$142,300.00

Option #2 would be an increase of \$27,445.00 for a total requested appropriation for 2023 is \$121,700.00

Increases mainly due to wages per either option.

Other increases:

Cell phone line increase of \$500.00 due to town provided cell phones, dispatch line increase of \$600.00 due to set fee from dispatch center, vehicle maintenance line increase of \$500.00 for tires, computer support line increase of \$100.00 for estimated software package pricing increases, books line increase of \$50.00 for RSA manual upgrades, equipment line increase of \$1,500.00 for repair/construct the evidence room mainly for shelving and bins, building renovations may fall under general government and not be part of the Police Department budget. Discussion of special duty line and the need for this to be a separate line to allow for the town to accept funds from details the Police Department may work on, still need to retain the special duty line for accounting purposes. Discussion on competitive pay for police officers, surrounding towns dealing with similar problem.

Chief recommending budget option #1.

What it boils down to is what does Danbury want for police coverage.

Will be voted on at a later date.

Fire Department:

Chief Martin came in to discuss budget for the Fire Department.

Electric line requested increase of \$300.00, propane line requested increase of \$300.00, both based on estimated 2023 increases. All light bulbs in the firehouse have been replaced with LED energy saving bulbs. Computer support line increase of \$300.00 due to internet provider increases, Jeremy to contact other potential internet providers to see if we can get a better deal. Equipment line increase of \$1,000.00 due to increased maintenance costs on new diesel-powered truck.

Total budget request increase of \$1,900.00, total requested appropriation for 2023 is \$64,380.00

Will be voted on at a later date.

Lake Region Fire Aid line increase of \$1,353.26 due to wages and health insurance increases.

Total requested appropriation for 2023 is \$17,907.13

Will be voted on at a later date.

Bristol Ambulance line decrease of \$8,027.74 based on usage per contract calculations.

Total requested appropriation for 2023 is \$57,054.26

Will be voted on at a later date.

Forest Fire line showing no increase, total requested appropriation for 2023 is \$3,000.00

Will be voted on at a later date.

Discussion in regards to Emergency Management line, request to have Emergency Management Director (Kyle Levesque) meet with budget committee to discuss Emergency Management plan. Jessica will contact Kyle and schedule him to attend an upcoming budget committee meeting.

Discussion in regards to potential safety complex. Jessica recommended that the budget committee attend the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) meetings held by the planning board. Jeremy recommended appropriating \$25,000 towards potential safety complex expenses. Discussion ensued; more information will be provided at a later date. No action taken.

Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice budget for 2023 submitted tonight.  
Budget request is same as 2022, total requested appropriation for 2023 is \$3,450.00  
Will be voted on at a later date.

Next meeting will be on 11/17/22 at 6:30pm.  
Tentative schedule for departments to present their budgets:  
Transfer Station at 6:30pm-Mike Maines  
Recreation Committee at 6:45pm-Deanna Pellegrino  
Highway Department at 7:00pm-Jeremy Cornell

Tentative schedule for department to present their budgets on 11/22/22.  
Danbury Community Center  
Library

Lenny motioned to adjourn at 8:23 pm, Doug 2<sup>nd</sup>, verbal vote taken, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Douglas Boisvert*