

Town of Danbury

Municipal Budget Committee – Meeting Minutes

November 17th, 2022

Call to Order 6:31 pm

Members present: Lenny Ryan, Anna Hullinger, Jessica Hatch (Selectman's rep), Doug Boisvert, Tracy Feinaur
Selectmen present: Ruby Hill, Tracy Shepard

Old business:

Minutes from November 10th, 2022

Bonnie Fletcher removed as a public attendee, she was in attendance to discuss the Historical Society budget.

Added Tracy Shepard to public attendees.

Lenny motioned to accept minutes, Anna 2nd, approved by voice vote.

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

New business:

Transfer Station:

Mike Maines and Jim Larkin came in to discuss the transfer station budget.

Handout of transfer station budget

Jim mentioned he was having difficulty obtaining pricing from vendors, prices have been fluctuating making it difficult to determine cost for 2023 budget year.

Mike discussed wanting to purchase waste blocks to help contain the winter sand pile at the transfer station.

Solid waste contract will increase by 3.5% for 2023 budget year, this is an increase of \$3,150.00 for a total line appropriation of \$93,150.00

Increases in electricity and operator wages lines, decrease in Pemi-Baker dues line.

Discussion about recycling aluminum cans and process of storing and trucking them to the recycling center.

Income from aluminum cans for 2021 was around \$2,100.00, estimated income for 2022 is to be half again as much as last year, estimated income of \$3,150.00, this income goes into the general fund, not into the transfer station budget.

Cardboard recycling requirements have changed, only dry corrugated cardboard is allowed to be loaded into the roll off cardboard container. Recycling vendor does not want wet non corrugated cardboard. Discussion ensued about potential of covering current container to keep cardboard dry or possibility of separate covered building to house roll off container.

Total requested appropriation for 2023 is \$153,015.00, an increase of \$3,358.00 calculated by information provided on the budget handout. Operator wages have yet to be determined, this may increase the total requested appropriation. This information will be provided by the selectmen at a later date.

Will be voted on at a later date.

Recreation Department:

Deanna Pellegrino, Jessica Gamboa and Erica Schumacher came in to discuss the Recreation Department budget. Jessica Gamboa asked about the mowing line and if the estimate from Bliss Yard & Property

Maintenance in the amount of \$800.00 would need to be added above and beyond the current mowing line appropriation of \$2,500.00, the amount of \$800.00 would be encumbered in the mowing line, no need for an increase for the 2023 budget year.

Total requested appropriation for 2023 is \$17,523.00, no increase for 2023 budget year.

Will be voted on at a later date.

Highway Department:

Jeremy Cornell and Bob Crisco came in to discuss the Highway Department budget.

Jeremy stated a lot of vendors said to expect increases on products. Most of the increase in the budget are driven by oil and gas prices. Discussion ensued in regards to temporary help, office help, diesel fuel, vehicle repair, equipment purchase, uniforms, electricity, rentals and leases, culverts, hot top/construction, Calcium Chloride, gravel, salt and winter sand, all these lines have seen increases. Biggest concern is diesel fuel cost, difficult to determine an accurate budget figure.

Difficulty obtaining contractors to do work such as cleaning out catch basins and culverts.

Culvert pricing has increased a large amount, pricing is volatile, difficult to determine a total amount to submit for budget purposes.

Hot top paving project for 2023 is Walker Brook Road, multiple culverts need to be replaced prior to applying hot top.

Information on pricing for new front-end loader is forthcoming, will be submitted when information is available, Jeremy working with vendors to obtain pricing, this will be a warrant article.

Discussion about culvert locations throughout the town, replacement schedule, beavers blocking culverts, etc.

Discussion about ditching materials and possibility of selling to anyone that may want it, difficult to get rid of because of knot weed and other contaminants. Material is delivered to the closest party that has asked for it.

Requested appropriation for executive highway department is \$379,000.00, an increase of \$38,748.00

Requested appropriation for other highway expenses is \$284,000.00, an increase of \$25,000.00

Total requested appropriation for 2023 is \$663,450.00, an increase of \$63,748.00

Lenny discussed with the committee about two topics:

- 1) Lenny asked about the means for the public to contact the Danbury Budget Committee via special email address to be potentially setup for the budget committee or through the existing Town of Danbury email address. Discussion ensued about pros and cons of special email address for Danbury Budget Committee. Conclusion was to have people contact the Danbury Budget Committee via the Town of Danbury email address, Danbury_selectmen@comcast.net
- 2) Lenny asked about the Right to know law and how it pertains to the Danbury Budget Committee. Discussion ensued in regards to the current method of the creation, storage and submittal of the Danbury Budget Committee minutes and the method of delivery to the committee members and to the town office for posting on the website. Committee recommended to store all minutes on a USB drive and not on any personal computer that is not owned by the town of Danbury. Doug will obtain a USB drive/stick to store minutes on from now on.

Discussion in regards to Emergency Management line, Jessica spoke with Emergency Management Director Kyle, he has submitted the Emergency Management Plan to the state, waiting for their response. He said we

could lower the budget appropriation from \$5,000.00 to \$1,000.00 for the 2023 budget year. Kyle will submit bill to the town for the work he has done in 2022.

Next meeting will be on 11/22/22 at 6:30pm.

Tentative schedule for departments to present their budgets:

Danbury Community Center

Library

Lenny motioned to adjourn at 8:30 pm, Tracy 2nd, verbal vote taken, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Boisvert

DRAFT