

Town of Milton
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
November 28, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Laura Turgeon (Chair), Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Peg Hurd, Kim Wischnewski, Stephanie Mills, Claudine Burnham, Mike Beaulieu

Staff: Chief Richard Krauss- Milton Police Department, Brian Leclerc- Town Clerk, Ann Nute, Nancy Drew, and Miranda Mahre- Milton Free Public Library

Public: Larry Brown

Laura Turgeon, Chair, opened the session at 6:02PM.

1.) Pledge of Allegiance: Laura Turgeon, Chair, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.) Roll Call:

- a. Ms. Turgeon, Chair, led the roll call of members to determine if a quorum was present. Laura Turgeon (Chair), Kimberly Wischnewski, Bob Carrier, Peg Hurd, Renata Gamache, Stephanie Mills, Claudine Burnham, Mike Beaulieu. A quorum was present.

3.) Review/Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Hurd motioned to approve the November 16, 2023, Joint BOS/Budget minutes with corrections. Ms. Mills seconded the motion.

Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0

Ms. Hurd motioned to approve the October 24, 2023, minutes with corrections. Ms. Mills seconded the motion.

Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.

4.) Discuss Town's Proposed Budget (including the BC):

Ms. Turgeon said the Budget Committee would review the proposed individual Department/Committee 2024 budgets and compare these to the BOS proposed budget.

Ms. Turgeon said there would be an increase to both Police and Fire Departments salary due to the BOS approving December 24, 2024 as a holiday. Chief Krauss explained Fire and Police holiday pay is different from town employee; police and fire personnel do not get holidays off. Instead, they receive payments twice per year. Ms. Turgeon asked why the BOS approved a 12th holiday? Ms. Burnham explained for 2024 only, they approved adding Christmas Eve day. Chief Krauss said they also discussed July 5th; however, it's expected an employee would use a leave day for 7/5/2024. Ms. Wischnewski cautioned this could be setting a precedent and town employees could expect this every year.

Town Administrator:

Ms. Turgeon explained there is a 30% cost decrease in street lighting due to the change to LED. She asked why the school was not seeing any decrease yet? Ms. Hurd said they would be discussing this.

Ms. Turgeon asked about the Back Bay contract as it has increased significantly over the last few years. Chief Krauss said the contract with Back Bay will be re-evaluated in 2024.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Brian Leclerc:

PT Salary: Proposed increase - \$16,640; BOS proposed - \$6,946 (based on hours).

The salary elected proposed increase - \$57,500; to BOS proposed - \$49,820. Mr. Leclerc said he was told this was based on experience but disagreed with the overall premise, along with other changes to his proposed budget. Mr. Leclerc was asked if the BOS proposed was an increase over what he is currently making and he said “yes”. He emphasized the need to have a Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector. He said his proposed numbers were due to an increase in PT hours from 8 to 16. Deputy TC would work 2 days per week to learn the position; the salary for the FT Assistant was based on a decrease to this position by 8 hours down to 32 hours. He asked why would his Deputy pay be higher than his assistant’s would be? Mr. Leclerc said he would like to keep this as he originally proposed.

Regarding TC/TX salary, he requested it stay at last year’s rate of 57,500 which is what the town had voted on when they voted in the previous Town Clerk/Tax Collector who at the time had no experience. Upon his election to the position, he will have nine months’ experience. Ms. Turgeon said when the previous Town Clerk was voted in, there were issues with how things were originally written and assumptions about pay. Mr. Leclerc said this had been voted on and approved by the town; when Mr. Leclerc was hired, he was told by the Town Administrator his salary would be the same. He did note there is nothing in writing indicating this. He said he understands any pay increase would require a Warrant Article for the town vote. His BOS -proposed salary of \$49,820. would only increase his pay by \$68.00 per week to go from Deputy to Town Clerk; this doesn’t seem to be a profitable increase.

Ms. Turgeon said it is up to the BOS regarding pay decisions. She doesn’t approve of the part-time salary increase along with an increase to his salary while trying to keep the budget in check. Mr. Leclerc said the proposal was based on decreasing full-time salary to help cover the increase in Deputy pay. Ms. Turgeon asked if the \$37,000 is an hourly rate and based on 32 hours? Yes, according to Mr. Leclerc. She asked if they could possibly work overtime in the future? Mr. Leclerc said if elected that would not happen and the hours would remain at 32. Ms. Gamache questioned if they were currently working 32 hours? Mr. Leclerc – yes. Ms. Gamache said the pay was based on 40 hours – are you proposing their hours drop to 32? Chief Krauss said the \$46,000 is based on the position working 40 hours. Mr. Leclerc said by the end of the year, he expects this line-item to be under budget, along with the Deputy. Ms. Turgeon asked if Mr. Leclerc needs the Deputy to work 16 hours? Mr. Leclerc said no; however, he believes it would be difficult to find an individual who only wants to work up to 8 hours each week. There is no one currently in the position as the current Town Clerk/Tax Collector has resigned due to moving out of town; Brian is now working in the position as the Deputy. Ms. Turgeon said the Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector must be a resident of Milton, along with any elected person. Ms. Burnham said it’s expected the Full-time

position is based on 40 hours, even if the current person is only working 32 hours. Mr. Leclerc said his plan is for the **Deputy** to be a 40 hour/week position and the assistant would be a part-time position.

Ms. Wischniewski said there had been previous discussions about separating the Town Clerk position from the Tax Collector position and noted both positions do not need to be elected. Ms. Burnham said many towns are starting to move away from combining both positions; this option does remain on the table. Ms. Turgeon said it's important to remember the previous Tax Collector was brought in at the same increased rate as the person in the position before him who had retired. Mr. Leclerc said he was told BOS adjustments are based on experience and the pay scale. He said he does have more experience than the previous person in the position and he was told elected officials do not receive increases based on the step program. He does not see any justifications for lowering the salary.

Chief Krauss said there are three elected positions – Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Fire Chief, and Public Works. The positions are listed on the step plan but are not considered bound to the step plan; the step plan is used as a guide for the elected positions. Ms. Gamache said she does agree with the proposed BOS budget changes. Chief Krauss said any changes to elected official's salary have to be put forward to the voters for their approval.

Ms. Burnham said it's important to remember the positions are considered as more of a service to the town. People run for positions because an individual wants to serve their town. This has been discussed with town attorneys. Ms. Turgeon thanked Mr. Leclerc for his passion and candor; however, she cannot recommend any changes to what the BOS has proposed. Full-time does mean 40 hours, not 32 and it may be difficult to find an individual who only wants to work 32 hours per week. Ms. Turgeon said as Mr. Leclerc was appointed due to the previous individual leaving, he was not elected at the \$57,500 salary.

Mr. Leclerc said this year he will have to work four elections with no additional compensation. He is currently working on average 50 hours per week. Ms. Turgeon asked if he is currently paid hourly? Mr. Leclerc – yes. Ms. Turgeon said once elected this would change to salary and he can set his hours (Ms. Burnham said per the RSA he would only have to work one hour per month to collect the salary). Ms. Mills asked what is the current hourly rate based on? Mr. Leclerc said the BOS set the rate and once he received the necessary training, there would be a pay increase. Ms. Mills asked how the current hourly rate equate to the \$57,500? Mr. Leclerc said it's below. The BOS proposed salary would be \$68/week increase based on the hourly rate. Ms. Hurd asked if the recommended BOS salary of \$49,920 would be a decrease? Mr. Leclerc said this would be an increase; he said, while this is an increase, it is only \$68/week and he is asking for a fair increase. Ms. Gamache said she agrees with the BOS recommended changes. This is a fair salary. Ms. Turgeon said she also recommends moving forward with no changes from what the BOS has recommended.

Mr. Carrier asked if Mr. Leclerc received a job description when he was hired? Mr. Leclerc said yes and he was told elections would be part of the position. Ms. Turgeon said his pay is not being cut, although it is not the increase he would like. Ms. Burnham said it's also important to remember

the salary figure does not include benefits, which is part of a separate line-item. Other towns do not include benefits for their elected officials. The town is not obligated to offer benefits; however Milton does.

TC/TX Postage: As of October 31, postage expenses were \$5,500. Mr. Leclerc said upcoming tax bills will add \$2,000. Mr. Leclerc proposed increasing postage to \$9,500. BOS recommended adjusting only \$500 to \$8,500 (default \$8,000). Ms. Turgeon asked if \$8,500 would be enough? Mr. Leclerc said it's possible the current line-item will come in over budget. Ms. Gamache asked why are sewer invoices included along with tax bill? Why are these costs not included in the sewer's budget? Mr. Leclerc said they are included as they go out at the same time as the tax bills and are mailed in the same envelope. Ms. Gamache said as they operate separately this would be important to see their actual costs. Mr. Beaulieu said the sewer would have to add this line and the residents on the sewer system would see an increase in their overall bills. Ms. Mills said the town saves money by putting both bills together. Ms. Turgeon said Mr. Leclerc is asking for a \$1,500 increase in the postage line-item. Mr. Leclerc said it is possible this may come in at \$8,000; however it may come in over budget.

Ms. Turgeon said the 2023 default is \$6,000 with budget at \$8,000. 2024 default is \$8,000 with BOS proposed increase to \$8,500.

Ms. Hurd proposed increasing TC/TX postage to \$9,000. Ms. Mills seconded the motion.

Mike Beaulieu, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Claudine Burnham voted No. Peg Hurd, Kim Wischnewski, Stephanie Mills, Laura Turgeon voted Yes. Motion failed – 4/4/0

Postage line-item will remain at \$8,500.

Library – Ann Nute:

PT Salary line decreased which also decreased two related line-items.

Phone – anticipated to be ~\$1,680 with Consolidated – they have not received a bill yet.

Anticipating \$70/month/line.

Ms. Turgeon motioned to approve adjusting the line to \$1,680. Seconded by Ms. Hurd.

Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.

Contract Services – Ms. Turgeon spoke with Mr. Williams. Going forward the library will be able to use the town's Amazon Business Account. Chief Krauss said they have combined the various department Amazon's accounts into just one business account which will allow ten users. The library will start using this account when their account expires in March, 2024.

Assessing:

Chief Krauss said there should be money left over in the budget to help pay down some of the contract which is \$131,468.

Budget Committee:

Ms. Turgeon said the only change is in Professional Services. The BOS had already approved an

increase for the Recording Secretary from \$75 to \$80 per meeting. This would increase this line from \$1,500 to \$1,600. Ms. Turgeon recommended the Budget Committee do the same.

Ms. Turgeon motioned to approve the increase in Professional Services line. Seconded by Ms. Turgeon.

Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.

Cemetery:

Ms. Burnham said they will be meeting to discuss the final transition to the field sexton. Payouts will happen in December. This continues to be a work in progress.

Conservation Commission:

Chief Krauss reported he was not given any changes for this department.

Fire Department:

FT Salary will stay with the default (this includes 3rd FT position)

PT Salary – recommend a small increase, utilizing the revolving account where possible. Ms. Hurd asked why this line was so far over budget last year? Ms. Burnham said because of the changes put into place, we can now see the true cost of this line.

Ms. Turgeon motioned to keep the PT Salary as per the BOS recommendation. Seconded by Ms. Hurd. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Salary Elected – Ms. Turgeon said the Chief has been getting increases every year. This year the proposed increase is just under 2%. Ms. Burnham said the overall goal regarding raises for elected officials is to bring forward a Warrant Article and let the voters decide. This is a more legitimate way of doing increases. As a small town government, there are rules and regulations to follow. Ms. Hurd motioned to approve a 1% increase to \$42,163. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills voted Yes; Mike Beaulieu, Renata Gamache voted No. Motion Carried – 6/2/0.**

Uniforms – Ms. Turgeon asked if the department needs new duty uniforms every year? Chief Krauss said new personnel who do not already own a Class A uniform would require one. The DOT safety vests are replaced when they start to break down. Ms. Turgeon said the BOS proposal includes a decrease.

Ms. Hurd motioned to accept the BOS proposed change to \$22,175 vs. \$24,845 proposed by Chief Marique. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills voted Yes. Mike Beaulieu voted No. Motion Carried – 7/1/0.**

Contract Services – Chief Krauss will confirm that the printer contract will be put under the TA line-item (along with DPW).

Adobe Acrobat – BOS removed one user account; Chief Marique is OK with the change.

Electric – Current YTD expenditure is ~\$18,875; 2024 Proposed \$25,000. Chief Krauss said everyone will get an increase in January (increase happens every year). This year there was a decrease in August which may not happen in 2024. Every six months we can expect either an increase or decrease.

Ms. Hurd motioned to keep electric at the 2024 proposed \$25,000. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Phone – Ms. Hurd motioned to approve increase to \$5,730 (due to Consolidated Communications contract). Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Building Maintenance – Ms. Hurd motioned to approve increase of \$500 to \$4,000. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Vehicle Maintenance – Ms. Hurd motioned to approve increase to \$20,000 for vehicle maintenance. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Ms. Hurd motioned to approve all other items with no BOS proposed changes as is. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Government Buildings:

Salary – decrease due to retirement and new person coming in at lower rate.

Ms. Hurd motioned to accept BOS proposed operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Gamache. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Overtime - Ms. Hurd motioned to accept 2024 proposed budget of \$6,000 (also accepted by BOS). Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Equipment Maintenance – Ms. Hurd motioned to accept the proposed BOS changes. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Ms. Hurd motioned to accept all line-items with no proposed BOS changes. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Highway:

Salary – Ms. Hurd motioned to accept the decrease in FT salary. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura**

Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.

Overtime – Ms. Hurd motioned to accept overtime at \$30,000. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Ms. Hurd motioned to accept proposed 2024 budget line-items – PT Salary, Retirement/Longevity, Salary elected, heat. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Ms. Hurd motioned to accept all other BOS proposed changes to the 2024 operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Supplies – Ms. Hurd motioned to approve \$31,357. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Operating Supplies – Ms. Mills motioned to approve the increase to \$62,000. Seconded by Ms. Hurd. It was noted last year gravel was taken out of the budget. Because of all the storms in 2023, supplies are now depleted and is now added back in. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Ms. Mills motioned to approve all other items at the BOS proposed operating budget –including vehicle fuel, rock salt, diesel fuel, equipment maintenance (slight increase due to ongoing truck maintenance). Seconded by Ms. Wischnewski. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Insurance and Benefits: Ms. Hurd motioned to accept the BOS proposed 2024 operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Library: Ms. Hurd motioned to accept the BOS proposed 2024 operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Moderator: Ms. Mills motioned to accept the BOS proposed 2024 operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Hurd. Chief Krauss asked if this should be updated to reflect five possible elections instead of the four elections currently budgeted. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Outside Appropriations: Chief Krauss reported they have received a few requests but not from all. Ms. Turgeon said there are no changes indicated in the 2024 budget. Ms. Wischniewski asked if it was possible to track each organization and determine which ones are not expecting monies. Ms. Turgeon recommended leaving the numbers as is and revisit next year to see who does expend monies.

Ms. Hurd motioned to move all items and accept BOS proposed operating budget for 2024. Seconded by Ms. Mills. It was noted the Wakefield Resource Center hasn't expended any monies for the past several years. According to Mr. Brown, this organization is experiencing huge problems. Ms. Hurd recommended moving WRC to \$1.00. Mr. Beaulieu recommending decreasing Homemakers Health to \$500. This may be Homeless Center for Strafford County. Ms. Burnham asked about the possibility of shifting monies to We Care Pantry as they are a local resource for Milton residents. Ms. Wischniewski recommended tabling outside appropriations. All were in agreement.

Planning and Code: Ms. Hurd motioned to accept BOS proposed 2024 operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischniewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Police Department: Ms. Mills motioned to accept all BOS line items from the 2024 proposed operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Hurd. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischniewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Recreation: Ms. Mills motioned to accept BOS proposed 2024 operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Wischniewski. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischniewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Sewer: It was noted the postage line-item is \$1.00. Ms. Mills motioned to accept the BOS proposed 2024 operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Hurd. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischniewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Solid Waste: FT Salary decreased due to retirement, along with Overtime and PT Salary. Ms. Mills motioned to accept the BOS proposed 2024 operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Hurd. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischniewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Supervisors of the Checklist: Ms. Gamache asked if these were elected positions? Yes. The salary increase is based on the upcoming four elections in 2024. It is a stipend position. Mr. Beaulieu recommended budgeting for a possible fifth election. Ms. Turgeon said she is not aware of how much the stipend is for each election.

Mr. Beaulieu motioned to leave the budget as is. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischniewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Town Administrator:

Chief Krauss reported the street lighting could probably be decreased slightly if needed. In 2023, the budget was \$17,000. Proposed 2024 budget decreased to \$12,000. Chief Krauss suggested decreasing down to \$10,000.

Mr. Beaulieu motioned to decrease street lighting from \$12,000 to \$10,000. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Ms. Hurd motioned to accept all other items as recommended by the BOS 2024 proposed operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Ms. Turgeon said they can vote on everything within this area, including salary. Ms. Burnham recommended for any salary increase, this should be as a Warrant Article for the voters to decide.

Salary-FT: Mr. Beaulieu motioned for the full-time salary line-item to remain at the BOS proposed 2024 operating budget figure. Seconded by Ms. Gamache. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Salary-PT: Ms. Mills motioned to accept the BOS proposed 2024 operating budget figure for Salary PT. Seconded by Mr. Beaulieu. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Salary Elected: Ms. Gamache motioned to accept the BOS proposed 2024 operating budget figure for Salary Elected. Seconded by Mr. Beaulieu. **Laura Turgeon, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Ms. Hurd voted No. Motion Carried – 7/1/0.**

Training: Mr. Beaulieu motioned to accept the BOS proposed 2024 operating budget figure for Training. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Postage: Ms. Mills motioned to increase postage to \$9,000. Seconded by Ms. Hurd. It was noted postage had been voted on previously. Ms. Mills retracted her motion. Ms. Hurd retracted her second.

Equipment Maintenance: This line-item is for voting machines; 2024 will be the final year to use the current machines. Voting machine purchase will be included as a 2024 Warrant Article. Chief Krauss said there are no prices yet for new machines.

All other line-items not previously voted: Ms. Hurd motioned to accept all remaining line-items as part of the BOS proposed 2024 operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Treasurer: Ms. Hurd motioned to accept the BOS 2024 proposed operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine**

Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.

Trustees of the Trust Fund: Ms. Mills motioned to accept the BOS 2024 proposed operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Hurd. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Welfare: Ms. Turgeon said she is very concerned that the proposed \$25,000 will not be enough for rent and mortgage. Chief Krauss said while they will continue to have some impact during the first half of 2024, he hopes the housing market will start to have needed price corrections. In addition, they are now very strict about following policy which will also help curb overall costs. He acknowledged overall it has slowed since they started adhering to policy, he cannot guarantee this line will decrease. However, other lines within welfare should help balance out the \$25,000. Mr. Beaulieu motioned to accept the BOS 2024 proposed operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Gamache. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

ZBA: Ms. Hurd motioned to accept the BOS 2024 proposed operating budget. Seconded by Ms. Mills. **Laura Turgeon, Peg Hurd, Bob Carrier, Renata Gamache, Kim Wischnewski, Claudine Burnham, Stephanie Mills, Mike Beaulieu voted Yes. Motion Carried – 8/0/0.**

Ms. Turgeon said based on not having enough information, the Budget Committee would not vote on the following areas: Cemetery, Assessing, Conservation Commission and Outside Appropriations. Chief Krauss said he does not expect to have assessing numbers until the end of December.

5.) Discuss the School's Proposed Budget:

Due to the time, this discussion item was postponed to December 12th.

6.) Public Comments or Questions on Budget Committee Meeting Topics:

Larry Brown provided information on welfare law #165 and complimented the school board meetings, particularly the Facilities Management Plan provided by the Superintendent; the public is now getting so much information. He had a delightful time when working with Lynette McDougall and provided information about documents needed for elected officials, hired officials.

7.) Other business that may come before the board:

Discuss possible additional meetings.

Chief Krauss said the Warrant Article first reading will be BOS meeting on December 4th. The 2nd reading will occur at the 2nd meeting. He anticipates being able to have a first look reading available at the next Budget Committee meeting.

Ms. Hurd said the School Board will meet on December 13th; they will not have their Warrant Articles at that meeting.

**8.) Next Regular BC Meeting:
December 12, 2023**

December 28, 2023

9.) Adjournment:

- a. Ms. Wischnewski motioned to adjourn at 9:35PM; Seconded by Ms. Burnham. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Winslow-Weiss, Recording Secretary – Budget Committee