

**Board of Selectmen
WORKSHOP/MEETING**

Downstairs Meeting Room

**March 1, 2022
9:00a.m.**

Board Members Present: Carmen Lone, Chairman; Glenn R. Zaidman, Vice Chairman; G. Frederick Packard; Robert McHatton and Paul Tworog. **Absent:** None

Administration Present: Robert A. Peabody Jr., Town Manager; Georgiann M. Fleck, Deputy Town Manager; Holly Heymann, Finance Director; Jenna Domer, Deputy Finance Director and Nikki Hamlin, Administrative Assistant.

The meeting was also virtual so the public could monitor but could not participate in the budget meeting process unless they made a request to the Chairman for permission to speak.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lone called the meeting to order at 9:00a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Budget Workshop

a. Introduction and overview of the proposed budget

Review of Cost Centers with Department Heads and Outside Agencies

Account 011 Administration

Bob A. Peabody Jr, Town Manager, was present representing Administration

Member Tworog said are there other Towns that have a Deputy Town Manager and an Executive Assistant? It is no reflection on people's performances, but I think we need to keep costs down and that includes salary increases. Member McHatton said I disagree with Member Tworog because with today's market, it is important to keep our good people at the increases proposed. We have done market increases for other positions and we need to stay consistent. Member Packard said I agree, we need to understand that these are the "cogs that make the wheels" run so I think we should support what they are asking for.

The Consensus of the Board was to approve the Town Manager's recommendation for Cost Center 011, Administration, in the amount of \$396,266.

029 Other General Government

Bob A. Peabody Jr, Town Manager, was present representing Other General Government

The Consensus of the Board was to approve the Town Manager's recommendation for Cost Center 029, Other General Government, in the amount of \$65,000.

034 Civil Emergency

Todd Perreault, Emergency Management Director, was present representing Civil Emergency

Chairman Lone said tell us about the Drone program you have budgeted for in account 3-3050 Small Equipment.

EMA Director Perreault said a drone is capable of transporting medical supplies, assist in search for missing persons, accidents and structure fires with thermal imaging to name a few of the benefits to a drone. EMA Director said just this past year there were 49 missing person reports. Town Manager Peabody said EMA Director Perreault has proposed the drone program the past few years and I have eliminated funding the program, however, now it has gone beyond just a novelty so I thought it would be beneficial Board discussion. Member Tworog said we just eliminated the K9 unit with 49 missing persons. Vice Chairman Zaidman said what are the costs associated with a drone program? EMA Director Perreault said the drone would be \$4,000 and training would be \$2,400. Member Tworog said this is definitely a 2 or 3 year approach. Chairman Lone said what is the life expectancy of a drone? EMA Director Perreault said the same a computer.

Consensus of the Board was 3 Approve / 2 Oppose (Chairman Lone and Member Tworog)

EMA Director Perreault said account 4-4270 Comm & Tech includes an upgrade for new radios which all departments will have to do in a few years because technology is going to change. We will go to more megahertz and currently we are restricted to channels and the frequency will increase. My suggestion is to leave all radios under EMA and start a radio reserve because this is not going to be an inexpensive endeavor.

Consensus of the Board was to decrease account 4-4270 from \$3,650 to \$300 and set up a reserve account with the difference of \$3,350 for the future purchase of upgrading radios.

EMA Director said we should consider an emergency command vehicle to be on-site during events. Chairman Lone said don't we have the availability of United Ambulance? EMA Director said yes, but if they are already on a call there is a delay for them to respond. Vice Chairman Zaidman said maybe EMA Director Perreault could work on grant funding for the purchase of a vehicle.

The Consensus of the Board was to decrease account 034, Civil Emergency, from \$41,127 to \$27,777 and set up a reserve account with a beginning balance of \$3,350.

072 Library

Jayne Hamaty was present representing the Library.

Ms. Hamaty said we are requesting an increase from \$84,000 to \$90,000 because of the costs associated with the increase in utilities and what is required for maintaining a historic building inside and outside and elevator upgrade with phone. The Library has a positive presence in the community and we also provide free Wi-Fi and a courtyard. Member McHatton said how did the fundraising go with the Four on the Fourth? Ms. Hamaty said \$24,000 went to the library and we are hoping to increase that to \$31,000 this year.

The Consensus of the Board was to approve the Town Manager's recommendation for Cost Center 072, Library, in the amount of \$90,000.

075 Bridgton Community Center

Marcia Sullivan was present representing Bridgton Community Center.

Chairman Lone asked the Board if she should recuse herself because she is the director of the facility. Consensus of the Board was no.

Ms. Sullivan said the increase in funding would cover the cost of a new director, allow the building to be open additional hours and improve and expand our partnership.

The Consensus of the Board was to approve the Town Manager's recommendation for Cost Center 075, Bridgton Community Center, in the amount of \$97,429.

293 Outside Agency Services

293-9-9515 Lifeflight

Ashley McMillan was present representing Lifeflight

The Consensus of the Board was to approve the Town Manager's recommendation for 293-9-9515, Lifeflight, in the amount of \$1,303.

293-9-9504 LR Chamber

Angie Cook was present representing LR Chamber

Ms. Cook said the Chamber has moved from Portland Road to Main Street. Member Tworog said are there any plans to put together an app for Bridgton? Ms. Cook said I am currently working on that and we improved the website which lists events, we are creating a Bridgton information map that people can download for free and we installed a big screen television which will display advertising and events. Vice Chairman Zaidman said is that for members only? Ms. Cook said no, we are going to work out a purchase possibility.

The Consensus of the Board was to approve the Town Manager's recommendation for 293-9-9504, LR Chamber, in the amount of \$4,800. 4 Approve / 1 Oppose (Vice Chairman Zaidman supported last year's request of \$3,500).

293-9-9510 Southern Maine Agency on Aging

Therese Johnson was present representing Southern Maine Agency on Aging.

Ms. Johnson said this program covers, domestic violence programs, nutrition such as Meals on Wheels, wellness checks and socialization and Medicare counselling services. The reports says that 24 people in Bridgton were served but that does not include intervention of the phone and multiple visits. This year we partnered with Northern Light Health.

The Consensus of the Board was to approve the Town Manager's recommendation for 293-9-9510, Southern Maine Agency of Aging, in the amount of \$2,500.

293-9-9502 LEA Milfoil and 293-9-9503 LEA Boat Inspection and 293-9-9505 LEA Subsidy
Colin Holme was present representing LEA Milfoil, LEA Boat Inspection and LEA Subsidy.

The Consensus of the Board was to approve the Town Manager's recommendation for:

293-9-9502 LEA Milfoil - \$1,500

293-9-9503 LEA Boat Inspection - \$2,900

293-9-9505 LEA Subsidy - \$1,950

293-9-9514 Sexual Assault Prevention

Nicole Watkins was present representing Sexual Assault Prevention

Vice Chairman Zaidman said what are the number of people Bridgton that you serve? Ms. Watkins said I do not have specific numbers.

The Consensus of the Board was to approve the Town Manager's recommendation for 293-9-9514, Sexual Assault Prevention, in the amount of \$750

293-9-9506 Lake Region Bus and 293-9-9507 Regional Transport

Don Libby was present representing Lake Region Bus and Regional Transport

Vice Chairman Zaidman said how many riders do you have? Mr. Libby said currently approximate 8,000 but pre-covid it was 11,000.

I just started in July but we are considering tying into an app that will be upgraded which includes a tracker app and the Wi-Fi has been upgraded on all of the buses. Once we get back to adding the fourth ridership, which was eliminated during COVID, we will do a Saturday travel.

Chairman Lone said the hospital eliminated their service which is unfortunate.

The Consensus of the Board was to approve the Town Manager's recommendation for:

293-9-9506 Lake Region Bus - \$8,500

293-9-9507 Regional Transport \$1,500.

293-9-9508 Opportunity Alliance

There were no representative(s) present representing Opportunity Alliance.

Chairman Lone said they have a variety of services including mental health services, emergency housing and case management. I don't know how they break out the numbers but they are active in assisting people mostly in Portland. Jana Richards works in the area of youth/teens and spends a lot of time in the High School. They have a small presence in Bridgton with services on line or you need to go to Portland.

The Consensus of the Board was to decrease account 293-9-9508, Opportunity Alliance, from \$5,000 to \$2,000.

293-9-9509 Tri-County Mental Health

There were no representative(s) present representing Tri-County Mental Health.

The Consensus of the Board was to decrease account 293-9-9509, Tri-County Mental Health, from \$5,000 to \$1,000.

293-9-9511 Through These Doors

There were no representative(s) present representing Through These Doors

The Consensus of the Board was to approve the Town Manager's recommendation for 293-9-9511, Through These Doors, in the amount of \$2,000.

293-9-9512 Bridgton Historical Society

Carrie Cushing was present representing the Bridgton Historical Society

Ms. Cushing said we are working to increase our membership. Funding for maintenance of the facility is coming from grants. We are going to make improvements at the Fire House Museum and hopefully at the end of the summer we will have the hose drying facility.

The Consensus of the Board was to approve the Town Manager's recommendation for 293-9-9512, Bridgton Historical Society, in the amount of \$6,000.

293-9-9516 Rufus Porter

Karla Leandri, Executive Director, was present representing Rufus Porter.

Executive Director Leandri said we are coming off of a banner year with over 1,200 visitors which includes those that attended our programs. We had an intern who started children's program and is interested in continuing the program. As you can see from the proposal, it has been a couple of years since we have asked for funding. Chairman Lone said do you work with the Town of Bridgton Recreation Department? Executive Director Leandri said no.

Member McHatton said are you doing an additional expansion? Executive Director Leandri said yes, that includes displaying our murals.

Consensus of the Board was to **deny** the request for funding submitted by Rufus Porter in the amount of \$6,620.

293-9-9517 Easy Riders

Blaine Chapman was present representing Easy Riders

The request for funding supports the increase in fuel. WE built our own drag last year which costs \$6,500. We started a Facebook page which has taken off in popularity.

Vice Chairman Zaidman said I would like to increase their request from \$2,500 to \$3,000.

The Consensus of the Board was to increase the request for funding from \$2,500 to \$3,000 for account 293-9-9517 Easy Riders.

299 Other Town Wide

Bob A. Peabody Jr., Town Manager, was present representing Other Town Wide.

The Consensus of the Board was to approve the Town Manager's recommendation for 299, Other Town Wide, in the amount of \$11,770,227.

010 Revenues

Bob A. Peabody Jr., Town Manager, was present representing Other Town Wide.

Vice Chairman Zaidman said are we considering funding the Senior Tax program? Town Manager Peabody said that is up to the Board but I will have Holly Heymann, Finance Director, confirm with the auditors the viability and legality of setting up a reserve account for this purpose.

The Consensus of the Board was to approve the Town Manager's recommendation for 010, Revenues, in the proposed amount of \$4,427,013 as set forth.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgiann M. Fleck, Deputy Town Manager