

Minutes Holden Finance Committee, April 17, 2024, Senior Center
Budget Review and Discussion

Members Present: Paul Challenger, Chris Lucchesi, Al Berg, Dave White, Jane Titcomb, Stephanie Adams, Donna Wallace, Marilynn Foley

Member Absent: Sarah Concannon

Also Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager, John Woodsmall, DPW Director

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Stephanie to approve the minutes of April 10, 2024 was voted unanimously.

The Committee is looking for further reductions to the budget of about \$450,000.00.

The Committee began discussion and voting on Capital Items requested by the Town Departments.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Donna to approve \$225,000.00 in the Town Manager Budget for Dawson Modular Buildout and Appraisal/DCR was voted unanimously. The modular buildout will be included in the proposed capital exclusion on the ballot and the ATM warrant.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Stephanie to approve \$28,900.00 in the Town Clerk Budget for a High-Speed Tabulator for use at elections was voted unanimously.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Stephanie to approve \$41,000.00 in the Cable TV Budget for Broadcast Pix Switches and PA Speakers was voted unanimously.

A motion by Al 2nd by Dave to approve \$92,000.00 in the Police Department Budget for a Chevy Tahoe Police Cruiser was voted unanimously.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Donna to approve \$481,000.00 in the Fire Department Budget for a replacement Ambulance, Transport Ventilator and a UHF Public Safety Antenna was voted unanimously.

Repairs to the pool included in the Recreation budget were deferred at Peter's recommendation. Since we are asking for additional money for the Industrial Drive Fields it does not seem to be the right time to also ask for \$2.2M for the pool. The pool can last another season or two without repair.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Jane to approve \$10,000.00 in the Senior Citizens Budget for IT upgrades to the Senior Center was voted unanimously.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Stephanie to approve \$250,000.00 in the Library Budget for the restoration of the library windows (the revised total project estimate of \$460,000.00 is lower than the estimate used to create the budget) was voted unanimously.

The following motions were considered to determine the best funding source for some of the previously approved capital purchases.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Marilynn to approve \$450,000.00 from the Fire Stabilization Fund to finance the replacement ambulance was voted unanimously.

A motion by Jane 2nd by Al to approve \$470,000.00 from free cash to fund a Ford 350 4X4 with plow, a Ford 350 with platform body sander and wing plow (Buildings and Grounds) a utility buggy (cemetery use) and a Ford 350 with dump (Highway Dept.) was voted unanimously.

The Cemetery Capital Requests: Records Conversion, Cemetery Mower and Fence are to be funded by the Cemetery Trust Fund. The Cemetery Trust Fund is under the control of the Town Manager and does not need expenditures to be approved by the FinCom.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Al to approve borrowing for an International Catch Basin Cleaner and a Mack 10 Wheel Dump (DPW Dept.) was voted unanimously.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Al to reduce the OPEB contribution from \$100,000.00 to \$50,000.00 was discussed, Dave accepted a friendly amendment to increase the amount to \$65,000.00. The amended motion failed by a 4-4 vote (opposed Paul, Stephanie, Jane, Donna).

A motion by Donna 2nd by Jane to fund the OPEB contribution of \$100,000.00 failed by a 4-4 vote (opposed Chris, Dave, Al, Marilynn).

A motion by Stephanie 2nd by Jane to reconsider the OPEB motion to contribute at \$100,000.00 was voted in favor (opposed Al, Marilynn).

A motion by Donna 2nd by Al to approve the W/S Enterprise Fund at \$9,173,676.00 was voted unanimously.

There was discussion on the W/S Capital requests. Al shared information with the Committee concerning the continuing study on the proposed future restoration of the Spring Street well, with a Water Treatment Plant. A motion by Dave 2nd by Al to remove \$100,000.00 for the study from the W/S Capital Request was defeated 7- 1 (opposed Paul, Chris, Dave, Jane, Stephanie, Donna, Marilynn).

A motion by Dave 2nd by Marilynn to remove truck 80 (\$35,000) was approved 6-2 (opposed Paul, Jane).

A motion by Stephanie 2nd by Donna to remove the shared cost (with Engineering) of Truck #82, the Ford Escape (\$35,000.00 total, \$17,500 W/S share) to a new W/S Capital total of \$2,345,000.00 was voted unanimously.

A motion by Donna 2nd by Stephanie to reduce the W/S operating Budget to a revised total of \$9,121,176.22 was voted unanimously. This reflects the removal of the new clerk position that was to be shared with the DPW, a correction to the retirement expense number, and the above voted changes to the capital budget.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilynn Foley, Clerk