

Town of Jefferson  
Select Board Meeting  
Budget Hearing  
February 6, 2023  
Jefferson Community Center

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Select Board Chair Kevin Meehan, Selectman Norman Brown (Zoom), Selectman Terri Larcomb, Mary Gross, Nancy DeCoursey, Jason Call, Chris Milligan, Liz Milligan, Lynne Holland, and Amanda Simino present.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan stated that he would go through the proposed 2023 Operating Budget by section and Warrant Articles then answer any questions that anyone has.

**General Government:**

Jason Call asked Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan why the town was under budget for 2022. Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan stated that the town was over budget and that he read the columns in reverse. Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan stated that some of the reason the town was showing over budget was due to grant funding. Town of Jefferson received a lot of grant funding in 2022 and could not show that under appropriations where it is considered to be unanticipated revenue.

**Public Safety:**

Jason Call asked if the proposed budget amount for this section has to do with wage increases and ambulance contract rate going up. Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan stated that yes that is correct. The town new that the ambulance contract was slowly going to increase over a five-year period. The town has gotten away with a low rate for many years and now needs to start increasing gradually over time. Fire Chief Chris Milligan asked if the reason for Fire Department & EMS budget showing an overage is due to grant money. Amanda stated where you see the figure of \$125,294, it does not include the reimbursement of the GOFERR money or the two claims that were submitted.

**Highways & Streets:**

Nancy DeCoursey stated that at the Post Office there is a map on the wall that was done just after the town implemented 911 addresses. It is an old map and doesn't show all the town's roads. She would like to see an updated one put up. Jason Call stated that Amanda could reach out to Casey for an updated overlay of the town. Selectman Terri Larcomb asked that Amanda also get a copy to put up at the Jefferson Community Center as well.

**Sanitation:**

Jason Call asked if the increase is due to the rising costs of the landfill & hauling. Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan stated yes unfortunately. Amanda stated that across the board for all hauling there has been an increase of at least 10% plus the hauling companies are now charging a fuel surcharge as well.



**Health:**

No questions were asked.

**Welfare:**

Selectman Terri Larcomb asked what this category was for. Amanda explained that it is for any town resident(s) that is/are eligible for assistants from the town. The town has an application process along with procedures that the Select Board follows when determining eligibility.

**Culture & Recreation:**

Liz Milligan asked if the library figures didn't include the funds that will be generated from the endowment fund interest. Amanda stated that the figures did not include the endowment fund interest. Liz Milligan stated that is what she thought but wanted clarification.

**Conservation & Development:**

Nancy DeCoursey stated she noticed Conservation budget went down a little bit from last year. She stated that she knows that their conference fees were not going to be decreasing and she would like to see the Conservation budget amount go up to where it was last year. Amanda stated that the \$370 figure reflects both David Govatski and Nancy DeCoursey attendance of the conference for 2022 and that if the fees go up the town would still cover the cost of attendance of the conference.

**Debt Service:**

Jason Call stated that TAN interest is remaining up and that the town would be looking at close to the same figure that was paid out in 2022. Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan stated that the town paid off the debt and that is why the amount budgeted for 2023 went down. Jason Call wonders about the TAN, he stated Jefferson is really the only town left statewide that hasn't gone to semi-annual property tax billing. Seems like year after year is a delay in our tax rate and therefore tax bills are delayed in being sent out. Amanda stated that in 2022 TAN interest was just over \$5,000, the reason why the total for interest reflected more than that is due to the delay in tax bills for 2021. The town got an extension of the TAN so that the town could get tax income in to pay off the TAN. The extension was granted that the 2021 TAN be paid off by January 31, 2022. This is the reason behind why there was more interest paid in 2022 for the TAN.

**Capital Outlay:**

Selectman Terri Larcomb asked Amanda to explain this category. Amanda stated the actual expenditures for 2022 doesn't show any of the revenue from the library's portion of the Jefferson Community Center, GOFERR Funds, and ARPA Funds. The town cannot budget for funds going out because the Select Board can vote for funds to be expended out of the CRF accounts. There isn't a guarantee that anything will be expended until a vote is held.

**Special Warrant Articles:**

No questions were asked.

Jason Call asked to go back to the total of the operating budget amount of \$1,257,689, he stated there wasn't a total of last years budget. Does anyone remember that figure? Amanda stated that 2022 **operating budget appropriations** were \$1,323,536, **special warrant articles** were \$241,809, **total appropriations** were \$1,565,345, **less amount of estimated revenues and credits** were \$1,106,900, making the amount of **estimated amount of taxes to be raised** to be \$458,445.



Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan went through each section of the revenues portion of the budget.

**Taxes:**

No questions were asked.

**Licenses, Permits, & Fees:**

Selectman Terri Larcomb asked what the From Federal Government funds were. Amanda stated that it was the towns seconded half of the GOFERR money that was awarded to the town in 2021. Jason Call asked if Planning and Zoning fees were included in the total fees collected. Amanda stated yes plus several other categories as well.

**State Sources:**

Jason Call asked why the decrease from last year. Select Board stated that the town doesn't know exact amounts that the different entities throughout the state is going to payout to the town.

**Charges for services:**

No questions were asked.

**Miscellaneous Revenues:**

No questions were asked.

**Interfund Operating Transfers In:**

No questions were asked.

**Other Financing Sources:**

No questions were asked.

**BudgetSummary2023:**

Operating Budget Appropriations:	\$1,257,689
Special Warrant Articles:	\$ 125,500
Individual Warrant Articles:	\$ 0
Total Appropriations:	\$1,383,189
Less Amount of Estimated Revenues & Credits	\$ 746,873
Estimated Amount of Taxes to be raised	\$ 636,316

Selectman Chair Kevin Meehanwent throughall 12 Warrant Articles.

**Article 1:**

No questions were asked.

**Article 2:**

Selectman Norman Brown asked that Amanda edit the article to read "will vote"not "will note"

**Article 3:**

No questions were asked.

**Article 4:**

Selectman Norman Brown wanted to note that for Articles 3 & 4 the Select Board increased the Fire Truck CRF and Highway Vehicle CRF because of the current pricing of vehicles. If the CRF's didn't increase there would be no way the town would build up enough funds to purchase any vehicles if needed.

**Article 5:**

No questions were asked.

**Article 6:**

Nancy DeCoursey stated that the town just put a lot of work into the Jefferson Community Center building. She asked what more is needed to be done to the building that is going to cost \$25,000. Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan stated that the building CRF is a fund to be used on all town buildings in the event something should come up.

**Article 7:**

No questions were asked.

**Article 8:**

No questions were asked.

**Article 9:**

Jason Call stated he does not like this Article. Nancy DeCoursey asked if this is for any particular entity in town? Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan stated that this is going along with the towns of Whitefield and Lancaster. It is meant to help with future economic development for the Town of Jefferson. Jason Call doesn't like it because it messes with assessing values. The said properties would still get assessed however the other property owners would be making up the difference. Selectman Norman Brown stated one thing to consider about the Article, it would allow the Select Board to control economic growth in the commercial aspect that goes on intown.

**Article 10:**

Selectman Terri Larcomb said this Article basically says Veterans get a \$50.00 credit on their property taxes. Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan stated yes. Liz Milligan asked what do they currently get for a credit? Amanda stated that it is currently \$50.00 but the town needs to re-vote every 5-years to readopt the Article. Jamie Dow stated the Town of Jefferson was due to readopt the Article. Jason Call stated that they changed the wording and wanted to know if Amanda sent this to Jamie Dow for review. Amanda stated yes, she has to send all budget and warrants to DRA for approval.

**Article 11:**

No questions were asked.

**Article 12:**

No questions were asked.

Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan asked if there were any more questions regarding the budget and warrants. Amanda stated that she had a few things for other business that could not wait until next week's meeting.



**Other Business:**

- Supplement Warrant: Amanda stated that Mary needed the Select Board's signatures on the Supplement Warrant regarding a property on RedBrook Rd. that was missed by assessing for a few years so therefore they did not get taxed.
- Amanda asked what the format would need to be for a petitioned warrant article. Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan stated he believes in the past it was name and address. Selectman Norman Brown suggested that Amanda check with Linda.
- Amanda asked the Select Board about the documents that need to be submitted with a Welfare application. There are residents in town asked if the Select Board would review an application without one of the applicants proof of identity. Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan stated that they can submit the application without the document, but it could be reason for denial, to due to the application being incomplete.

**Selectman Terri Larcomb made a motion to adjourn the Budget Hearing at 7:20 p.m. Selectman Norman Brown seconded the motion. A Roll Call Vote was done Selectman Chair Kevin Meehan "I", Selectman Norman Brown "I", Selectman Terri Larcomb "I", and with no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Simino / KM".

Amanda Simino  
Administrative Assistant to the Select Board