

Fryeburg Budget Committee Agenda
March 4, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.
David & Doris Hastings Community Center

Budget Committee Members Present: Ed Price, Patrick Emery, Jim Tyrrell, Stephen Chase, Bruce Baker
Select Board Members Present: Tom Kingsbury, Tom Klinepeter, Greg Huang-Dale
Town Staff Present: Katie Haley, Maryann Eastman, Rick Buzzell

Price called the meeting to order and declared a quorum.

Chase made a motion to approve the 2/26/2024 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Price. Price noted a couple of typos to be corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

Haley reviewed the singular follow-up item from last meeting related to adding FMLA for the Animal Control Officer to the Civil Services budget.

Conservation Committee Budget Review: Nels Liljedahl reviewed the list of potential projects being considered by the Conservation Committee as part of their in-progress 5-year strategic plan. He noted that there are 2 projects underway at the Town Forest that are largely being funded by a Community Resilience Grant; establishing a conservation easement with USVLT and constructing an outdoor learning center. Other projects include continuing partnership with schools, adding a granite bench at the Town Forest in memory of Gena Spencer, and completing a BioBlitz at the Town Forest (an inventory of species present onsite). Baker asked about the acreage of the Town Forest and the conservation easement. Future potential conservation projects in town were discussed. Klinepeter recommended getting information out about the proposed conservation easement at the Town Forest in advance of town meeting.

Parks, Open Space, & Beautification Committee Budget Review: Tess Dana reviewed the work completed at Peary Park last year and reviewed the plans to continue to improve that park by adding a walkway/patio to further define the entrance to the park. She talked about a partnership with the Fryeburg Academy and the Peary Museum at Bowdoin College to create an educational sign. There was discussion about the parking situation at Peary Park.

Saco Valley Fire Department Budget Review: Chief Harold Drew and Secretary Mel Drew presented the budget. They noted increases in pay for the Chief, training, fuel and equipment. They reviewed some grants obtained to purchase equipment and make building improvements. Baker asked for clarification on the location of fire stations. Tyrrell asked if training is completed with other departments; Drew confirmed that they do train together and that they offer for other departments to attend their training, unless it is basic in-house training. Tyrrell asked about insurance; Drew confirmed that they have private insurance rather than through Maine Municipal Association. Tyrrell questioned why a call was placed to MMA about insurance related to throwing candy at parades. Drew stated that she called the town's insurance provider (MMA) to get clarification about throwing candy due to receiving mixed signals from parade organizers. Price asked about turnout gear replacements. Drew noted that the gear needs to be replaced every 10 years and that they are replacing 2 sets per year. Drew requested that a reference in the annual town report noting that Saco Valley is contracted be removed.

Other Boards and Committees Budget Review: Haley reviewed the proposed budgets for the Select Board, Appeals Board and Planning Board. The Bicycles, Walkways, Trails Committee, the Broadband Committee and the Economic and Community Development Committee will not request funds.

Library Budget Review: Haley reviewed the basic insurance and wage information. Eastman asked if there were specific questions about the rest of the budget. Price asked about window cleaning; Eastman replied that the windows are professionally cleaned twice a year. There was discussion about the copier fees. Eastman relayed that people often come to the library to make photocopies. They are charged based on the number of copies and that is revenue that is collected.

Recreation Budget Review: Buzzell noted that a new position was added to the Rec Dept last year so he wanted to review all that has been done and what is coming up. He commented on plans to redesign the website and to make more effort to get the word out about events/activities. He reviewed specific activities, both ongoing and upcoming, and presented stats of participation. He reviewed some budget specifics including the need for additional training, for cell phones, and for expanded programming. He also explained the fertilizer increase; the Town purchased 2 years' worth of fertilizer increase 2 years ago to avoid rising costs so it was not in the budget last year but needs to be this year. He added that Fryeburg Rec Inc contributed \$24,000 towards field maintenance. Tyrrell asked for clarification on how something was entered into the budget. Price asked about the cell phone carrier; Haley responded that the town uses both Verizon and Us Cellular and that the 2 proposed phones will be added to one of the existing plans.

Parks Budget Review: Haley reviewed the Parks Budget. She noted that the increase is due to a need to replace the front perimeter fencing at Graustein Park. There were questions about the electricity at Bradley Park; Haley said there are 2 separate accounts for the electricity at Bradley Park.

Price reminded the committee that there is no meeting next week. He also asked about the process for obtaining legal counsel. Haley replied that it was done via a Request for Proposal but confirmed that it is not done on a yearly basis. The last RFP and switch in legal counsel 2 years ago was due to the retirement of the previous attorney that the town used for many years.

Chase made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Emery and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:12.