

MINUTES of BUDGET REVISION WORKSHOP
Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square, 18 March 2024

Selectboard present: Doug Bailey (chair), Heather Nelson (vice-chair), Ralph Ethier (clerk), Tim Guiles (selectman), Brian Coolidge (selectman)

Budget committee: Neil Silins, Barry Varian, Peter Werner (all in person); Jan Coolidge (by Zoom); Tricia Welch (partial; by Zoom)

Public in attendance: Seth Hopkins (town manager), Bill Moore (deputy town manager), Jackie Savela (town finance department), Kenneth Manning, Karen Farwell, Karen Rhodes, Sandy Mayo, Tracy Wyman, Susan Benedict, Dorothea Langevin, Jack Schneider, Billy Bulloch, Linda Gebhard, Patrick Snow, Steven Jupiter, William Claessens, Brent Buehler, Barbara Scribner, Scott Scribner, Karen Rhodes, Vicki Disorda

In attendance by Zoom: Tom Kilpeck, Jack Filioe, Keith Whitcomb.

The meeting was called to order by chair Doug Bailey at 7PM.

Tim Guiles moved adoption of the agenda as posted; second by Heather Nelson. VOTED 5-0.

Several board members, budget advisory committee members, and members of the public offered comments on matters both general and specific. Heather Nelson used an easel to record individual budgetary revisions suggested by members of the selectboard. Voting commenced at 8:43PM with the following actions taken:

1 Use \$100,000 from the local option tax (1% fund) to fund paving [on an ongoing basis]
Motion by Guiles, second by Nelson, VOTED 5-0

2 Remove resurfacing of a portion of the paved section of High Pond Road from the FY25 paving schedule
Motion by Guiles, second by Nelson, VOTED 5-0

3 Maintain current town management team form
Motion by Guiles, second by Nelson, VOTED 4-1 (Coolidge no)

4 Make fourth highway crew position a part-time position
Motion by Guiles, second by Nelson, FAILED 0 in favor, 4 against, 1 abstention (Coolidge)

5 Dedicate ARPA remaining from solar proposal to Town Hall roof
Motion by Guiles, second by Nelson, VOTED 4-1 (Coolidge no)

6 Continue to mail ballots for Town elections
Motion by Guiles, second by Nelson, FAILED 2 (Nelson, Guiles in favor) - 3 (Bailey, Ethier, Coolidge opposed).

[Ballots will not be mailed going forward; early/absentee ballots are still available by request of any voter to the Town Clerk.]

7 Eliminate two cruiser replacements; amended by mover to one cruiser replacement @ \$24,000
Motion by Coolidge, second by Nelson, VOTED 5-0

8 Maintain proposed increase to zoning/permitting office hours (from 12 hours a week to 24)
Motion by Guiles, second by Nelson, VOTED 4-1 (Coolidge no)

9 Maintain wage cost-of-living increase proposed by management team
Motion by Guiles, second by Nelson, VOTED 4-1 (Coolidge no)

10 Keep Recreation department as proposed
Motion by Guiles, second by Bailey, VOTED 5-0

Preliminary calculations subject to review by the Town finance staff were offered by the town manager:

Total FY24 adopted spending plan (current year):
\$3,346,150
Total FY25 revision to proposed spending plan (next year):
\$3,557,180
Increase = \$211,030
Increase in spending expressed as a percent: 6.3%

Amount to be raised by taxes:
Total FY24 amount to be raised by taxes:
\$2,737,260
Total FY25 revision to proposed amount to be raised by taxes:
\$3,032,510
Increase = \$295,250
Increase to amount to be raised by taxes expressed as a percent: 10.8%

The selectboard revised the proposal by cutting the proposed spending increase \$239,000, from \$450,030 to \$211,030, which is a 53% cut to the increase that was proposed to the voters and rejected.

The town manager announced that the proposed schedule would be for the board to consider the revised budget proposal and hold its vote to adopt the proposal at its next meeting on Monday 25 March. The Town has recommended to the school district that we hold our Town Meeting on Saturday 13 April at 10AM and that the Town and the School budget reconsideration vote be held on Tuesday 16 April.

Motion by Brian Coolidge, second by Tim Guiles, to adjourn the meeting at 10:11PM.
Not debatable. Unanimously VOTED.



Seth Hopkins, town manager