

LEBANON BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes, February 10, 2021

Lebanon Fire Station

- Meeting open – 6:35 p.m. with Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair, Jeri Basko. Present were Laura Bragg, Chris Gilpatrick, Dan Corliss, James DuPrie, Deborah Wilson, Jeri Basko, Chip Harlow, Elaine Hartford, Michael Wadsworth and Joyce Wood. Also present were Selectmen Charles Russell, Paul Philbrick and Corinna Cole.
- Minutes of February 3, 2021 were read. James DuPrie stated that he had abstained in the voting for the three officer positions. Chris Gilpatrick made motion to change the minutes to reflect the corrections. Motion was seconded by Elaine Hartford and the motion was approved.
- Outstanding Business
 1. Recreation Account - Explanation of \$300 given by Chuck Russell who stated that “Georgie” explained that last year the \$300 was used for a bounce house at the festival but this year it will be used at the Trunk or Treat event.
 2. Other:
 - a. Chip Harlow shared an informational sheet giving explanations of some concerns he has on past funds and journal entry processes in several accounts. The three concerns were reviewed and discussed with explanation given by Paul Philbrick on each item. He said that he will do further research on the funds used and the articles that were approved by Town Meeting to fund the ambulance and the accounting trail to purchase the ambulance and report back to the Committee.
- Budget Discussions
 1. Relief Agency – Each request was discussed as needed with some votes or other action taken as noted:
 - a. York County community Action
 - b. Caring Unlimited
 - c. Southern Maine Agency on Aging
 - d. York County Shelter Programs – Selectmen reported the request came in at \$1,000
 - e. Kids Free to Grow – Copies of the programs information will be made for the Committees review
 - f. American Red Cross
 - g. Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery
 - h. Lifeflight
 - i. North Berwick Food Pantry – It was noted that no request has been received but the Selectmen will reach out to them.
 - j. MSAD 70 Backpack Program
 - k. Ryan House – Chris Gilpatrick made a motion to add funding of \$550 with second by Laura Bragg. Much discussion followed and Chris Gilpatrick withdrew his motion. As discussed, more information was needed. A motion was made by Joyce Wood to request Selectmen to ask the Ryan House for 1. Financial Statements, 2. Information on the number of Lebanon Residents assisted and the number who were turned away and

3. A copy of the guidelines for admitting a student. Motion was seconded by Jeri Basko. Vote taken: 9 yes.

- l. American Legion – Discussed the request for \$18,000. Motion made by Jeri Basko to change the amount to \$250 with second made by Elaine Hartford. Vote taken: 5 yes, 3 no, 1 abstain.

- m. Maine Public Television – Discussed. Motion made by James DuPrie to remove from the budget requests with second made by Jeri Basko. Vote taken: 8 yes, 1 no.

It was agreed upon that more information was needed for Relief Agency (65-01) to be finalized so it was tabled for now.

- 2. General Government – All agreed to move to another date due to time constraints.

- 3. Legal - \$40,000 Discussed in detail with highlights as follows:

- Is this enough? Paul Philbrick explained that the Board has proposed, only if needed, to use \$10,000 of the contingency fund above the \$40,000.
- Chuck Russell explained that there will, if approved at a Town Meeting sometime in March, a new account to take care of marijuana matters funded from fees associated with these businesses (currently 4 businesses) There will be ordinances ready to be voted on with the funding of this proposed account included. This was discussed further by the group.

At this time (8:30) a motion was made by Jeri Basko to vote to extend the meeting beyond the scheduled time, seconded by Mike Wadsworth. Vote taken: Yes 6, No 3.

- Chris Gilpatrick asked for an explanation about funds spent on write-in candidates issue in the amount of \$967.50. Paul Philbrick stated that due to a difference of opinion among the Selectmen, the Attorney was called. This subject was discussed further.
- A motion was then made by James DuPrie to approve the requested \$40,000 for legal with second made by Elaine Hartford. NO vote taken. Mr DuPrie withdrew his motion. Discussion continued.

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.