

LEBANON BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes, March 31, 2021

Lebanon Fire Station

- Meeting open – 6:30 p.m. Present were Laura Bragg, Chris Gilpatrick, James DuPrie, Deborah Wilson, Jeri Basko, Chip Harlow, David White, Michael Walsworth, Elaine Hartford and Joyce Wood. Also present were Selectmen Charles Russell, Paul Philbrick, Butch Lizotte and Corinna Cole and Chief Flynn. Present from the public were Matthew Leggett and Erik DeWeever. Absent was Joyce Wood but she called into meeting and was on speakerphone throughout.
- Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairwoman, Jeri Basko.
- Minutes of March 24, 2021 were reviewed. David White made motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Chris Gilpatrick seconded. 7 voted in favor, 1 Against James DuPrie, 1 Abstain Elaine Hartford.
- Michael Walsworth asked for prayers for a resident in critical condition due to Covid.
- Budget Discussions – Se. Philbrick read through the referendums:
 - Although budget committee isn't voting on **Ref. 1-3**, there was discussion on wording and possible zoning. Selectmen to research.
 - **Ref 4** – Discussion. Wording given to committee was wrong, typos. Also, it was noted that it only covered enforcement and not administration. Question will be rewritten and **revisited** next week.
 - **Ref 5** - Shall an ordinance entitled, BUSINESS IMPACT FEE ORDINANCE – JUNE 2021 be enacted to fund \$350,000.00 for a high-capacity pumper/tanker fire truck and \$100,000.00 for Fire Department Equipment. Discussion – No final ordinance to review. Chief had some questions. More discussion. Will **revisit** next week.
 - **Ref 6** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$727,782.00 for government expenses for the town office including elections, Assessing Agent and the Selectmen wages and expenses? Insurance is now included in General Government.
Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0
No Discussion
 - **Ref 7** – Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to pay the Selectmen \$ _____ per hour plus expenses?
Discussion as to what to pay Selectmen. Chris Gilpatrick motioned to pay them \$12.15/hour, David White seconded. Discussion was held.
Budget Committee recommend: Yes 7 No 1 Abstain 1
Laura Bragg No, James DuPrie Abstain
Was voted later in meeting to **revisit** next week
 - **Ref 8** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 17,500.00 for the operation of the Animal Control Officers and expenses?
Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0
No discussion
 - **Ref 9** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 for legal fees?
Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0
Some discussion.
 - **Ref 10** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 for the contingency fund?
Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0
No discussion
 - **Ref 11** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,042.00 for the combined department budgets of Codes and Land Use (which includes code enforcement officer, planning board, appeals board and conservation commission)?

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

No discussion

- **Ref 12** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,116.00 for the Lebanon Recreation Department, which includes \$1,500.00 for the Annual Lebanon Festival?

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

No discussion

- **Ref 13** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$503,862.00 for the operation of the Lebanon Transfer Station?

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 8 No 1 Abstain 0

Chris Gilpatrick No

No Discussion

- **Ref 14** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to transfer \$100,000.00 from the Restricted Fund Balance to be placed into a Capital Reserve Fund for modifications/improvements to the Transfer Station. All funding transferred by this vote that is not used by June 2024 will be returned to the Restricted Fund.

Sel. Russell handed out a comparison sheet that showed costs associated with Waste Management and EcoMaine, including estimated hauling costs and estimated savings. This referendum is so that the Town can buy their own compactors and containers if deciding to go with EcoMaine. Waste Management contract expires in June of 2022. Discussion ensued back and forth.

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 5 No 3 Abstain 1

Chip Harlow, Chris Gilpatrick and Jeri Basko No, Joyce Wood Abstain

- **Ref 15** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 766,756.00 for operation of the Highway Department?

Sel. Cole requested to add another \$1,000 to budget to cover a possible grant writer for Upper Guinea bridge repair. Discussion was had regarding the grant, technical aspects, using Bridge CIP to fund, etc. Decided to keep as written for now but Selectmen can choose to bring back to Budget Committee next week.

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

- **Ref 16** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 255,000.00 to place in a Paving Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of road reconstruction and paving of Town owned public roads?

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

No discussion

- **Ref 17** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 25,000.00 to place in the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund for necessary bridge repairs and replacements of Town owned bridges?

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

No discussion

- **Ref 18** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$62,416.00 to cover the cost of Emergency Dispatching for the Emergency Services Department and for radio tower rental?

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

No discussion

- **Ref 19** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$591,914.00 for the operation, upkeep and purchase of equipment and supplies for the Lebanon Fire and EMS Department?

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

No discussion

- **Ref 20** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 1,000.00 to be placed in the Communications Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing communications equipment for the Lebanon Fire and EMS Dept?
Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0
No discussion
- **Ref 21** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 12,000.00 to purchase Protective Clothing for Fire & EMS, any unused funds will roll at the end of the fiscal year to the Protective Clothing Capital Reserve Fund?
Discussion as to how this question was worded and whether money should be directed into CIP or just unused rolled into CIP.
Budget Committee recommend: Yes 3 No 5 Abstain 1
Due to the vote it was decided to **revisit** this item next week.
- **Ref 22** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 2,000.00 to place in the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Capital Reserve Funds for purchasing Fire and EMS SCBA Equipment?
Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0
No discussion
- **Ref 23** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500.00 to place in the Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for purchasing Fire and EMS equipment?
Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0
No discussion
- **Ref 24** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to appropriate 30% of the Ambulance Billing Revenue received by the Town of Lebanon for fiscal year 2021-2022 to be placed into an Emergency Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund for purchasing emergency vehicles for the Fire Department.
Budget Committee recommend: Yes 6 No 3 Abstain
Chris Gilpatrick, Michael Walsworth and Chip Harlow No
Some discussion after the vote as to the cost to taxpayers. Chief provided some comments as well.
- **Ref 25** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,451.00 for the operation of the Martha Sawyer Community Library?
Budget Committee recommend: Yes 8 No 1 Abstain 0
David White No
No discussion
- **Ref 26** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500.00 for General Assistance?
Budget Committee recommend: Yes 8 No 1 Abstain 0
Mike Walsworth No
No Discussion
- **Ref 27** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,114.00 to support the following relief agencies according to the breakdown below?

York County Community Action	\$ 4,005.00
Caring Unlimited	\$ 1,809.00
So. Maine Agency on Aging	\$ 1,750.00
York County Shelter Programs, Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
Kids Free to Grow	\$ 250.00
So. Maine Veterans Cemetery	\$ 1,000.00
Life Flight	\$ 500.00
MSAD Backpack Program	\$ 250.00
Ryan House Project	\$ 550.00
***Lebanon Memorial American Legion Post 214	\$ 500.00

\$11,614.00

Discussion was had regarding adding the American Legion Post 214. A motion was made by Chip Harlow to recommend to Selectmen that they add \$500 for the America Legion Post 214. Seconded by David White. All were in favor. The 4 Selectmen were also in favor, so the Referendum article was changed to add Post 214 (see ***) and voted on by Budget Committee.

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 8 No 1 Abstain 0

Mike Walsworth No

- **Ref 28** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 24,792.00 for the restoration and maintenance of cemeteries throughout the town as mandated by Maine State Law, 13 MRSA §1101 (which includes the sum of \$1,000.00 for the Memorial Day ceremony and the decoration of Veterans graves as mandated by Maine State Law, 30-A MRSA §2901)?

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

No discussion

- **Ref 29** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 8,000.00 to place in the Salmon Falls River Watershed Protection Capital Reserve Fund? This fund to be used for the protection of the Salmon Falls Watershed, which includes Northeast, Milton and Spaulding Ponds. Current protection activity is European Naiad eradication efforts.

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

No discussion

- **Ref 30** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 10,000.00 to place in the Building Capital Reserve Fund to included upgrades and modifications as well as large scale repairs of municipal buildings or grounds totaling \$10,000 or more?

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

No discussion

- **Ref 31** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 32,084.00 to place in the No Spray contract Central Maine Power Capital Reserve Fund?

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

No discussion

- **Ref 32** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to set an interest rate of 1% per state law as the rate to be paid back to taxpayers who pay amounts in excess of amounts finally assessed and authorize any such interest paid or abatements granted to be charged against the annual overlay, which is not to exceed 5% of the total assessment as per State Law (36 MRSA §506-A)?

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

No discussion

- **Ref 33** - Shall the Town of Lebanon allow the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes prior to the tax commitment date and to charge interest on unpaid taxes at the rate of 5% per annum, and to set the date when taxes are committed for the fiscal year 2021/2022 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022) and payable as of October 15, 2020, or 45 days from the tax commitment whichever is later and April 15, 2022?

Interest will be collected after October 15, 2021 and April 15, 2022 respective to billings due dates.

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

No discussion

- **Ref 34** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to place any unexpended funds from the prior year into the unassigned restricted fund-balance?

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

No discussion

- **Ref 35** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to authorize funding at last year's (2020-2021) level for the General Government, Emergency Services, Codes & Land Use, Animal Control, Transfer Station and Highway Departments whose new appropriation is not approved by this year's referendum vote, until such time that any new funding must be authorized before the next tax commitment?

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 6 No 3 Abstain 0

Chip Harlow, Chris Gilpatrick and Jeri Basko No

No discussion

- **Ref 36** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to appropriate all monies received from the State for snowmobile registrations to the Lebanon Trail Riders Club for maintenance of their system or network of snowmobile trails, on the condition that those trails are open in snow season to the public for outdoor recreation purposes at no charge, and to authorize the municipal officers to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the municipal officers may deem advisable for that purpose?

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0

Minor discussion

- **Ref 37** - Shall the Town of Lebanon vote to transfer up to \$90,000.00 from the Restricted Fund Balance to fund over expenditures in the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget.

Discussion occurred regarding what does the \$90,000 cover. Currently Sel. Philbrick estimates \$20-30k for Fire, \$10k for legal on top of \$10k already used from Contingency, and \$20-25K for transfer station. Contingency currently has between \$35-40k but this has been earmarked for something that Sel. Philbrick was not at liberty to discuss. Concerns were raised as to the fund balance in the General Fund. Discussion was also held regarding the Transfer station overage.

Budget Committee recommend: Yes 6 No 2 Abstain 1

Chris Gilpatrick and Jeri Basko No, Chip Harlow Abstain

- Chief had questions regarding referendums and how they impact him trying to get a new Fire Truck.
- David White made a motion to revisit Ref #7, seconded by James DuPrie. 6 in favor, David White and Chris Gilpatrick against, and James DuPrie abstained.
- Next week the Committee will revisit and vote on Referendums 4,5,7, and 21 and verify change to Referendum 27.
- A motion was made to adjourn. all voted in favor and the meeting was adjourn at 8:30 p.m.