

Town of Alburgh
Selectboard Budget et al Meeting Minutes
Municipal Conference Room
1/30/2023

Present: Josie Henry, Donna Boumil, Donna Bohannon, Shawn Creller, Russell Duchaine, Danielle James Choiniere, Alton Bruso, Rodney James, Terry Tatro, Ron Kumetz

[Budget / Ballot Items / Town Meeting Preparations for FY 2023-24](#)

Chair Henry opened the meeting at 5:03 PM.

2023-24 budget line items which hadn't been fitted with numbers were addressed. Numbers were also previewed, i.e. a line was needed for the fire department's capital equipment.

Fire Chief Kumetz attended to answer any questions on the fire department. He summarized they lost about \$15K in revenue from events the auxiliary usually hosted. Prices of equipment and other items were up 20-25%. The department hasn't asked for an increase in funding since 2014. Now that the fire and rescue departments are split, most revenue went with rescue. Russell Duchaine asked Ron if the department has a vehicle list and Ron said he could produce one

- **Reaffirming the 1/23 vote, Josie Henry motioned to place the fire department's two articles for \$70K and \$25K for general purposes and equipment respectively. Donna Boumil seconded, all in favor. So voted.**
- **Josie Henry moved to include a ballot item for the 4th of July festivities. Donna Boumil seconded.** 4th of July fireworks were placed within the budget itself. Russell Duchaine wanted to see the word "parade" mentioned in the article. **Russell Duchaine opposed the motion, all else in favor. Majority approved.**

Under highway:

- **Russell Duchaine motioned for a 5% increase of the current \$170K highway payroll for FY 2023-24. Shawn Creller seconded.** Donna Boumil mentioned at an insurance discussion in December with highway employees, the current benefit package was negotiated in lieu of raises. Russell Duchaine observed that would mean no raises for 1.5 years and good help is hard to find. The board could budget for it and say it's not a given. Terry Tatro said if there's a highway surplus, raises could come from that. **Russell Duchaine voted yes, all others no. Motion died.**

Josie Henry observed the town should have a fund separate account for paving.

Rodney James updated that the new plow truck has started to be built.

Josie Henry noticed, or it looked like, we were missing a loader and new truck payment. She also recommended surpluses can be used to pay off, or pay more, on current loans to save interest. One option to pay for the new town truck on order was to use the capital account funds already budgeted for.

Transfer station monies were discussed. Appears that non-residents aren't getting appropriately charged for things like C&D and brush. No larger expenses anticipated.

The town did receive a petition relating to school buses. Since the town board doesn't have jurisdiction over the school or district's budget, and their budgets have already been set, the town can have a straw vote article summarized by Donna Bohannon as 'shall the voters of the Town of Alburgh recommend to the Grand Isle Supervisory Union to have a village bus'.

- **Josie Henry motioned to include Donna Bohannon's quote on the ballot language. Donna Boumil seconded, all in favor. So approved.**
- **Josie Henry motioned for a 5-minute recess at 6:46 PM. Russell Duchaine seconded, all in favor. So voted.**

[Auditor/ Treasurer/ Selectboard Topics](#)

The part with auditor and treasurer input picked up after recess ended. Josie Henry had a handout on four objectives

relating to total FY 2022 revenues, general fund expense totals, highway surpluses and capital equipment totals, and overall surplus or deficit figures for FY 2022. There were questions on Homestead payments paid via the state if those were revenues or not. Some terminology in the treasurer's report may need clarifying. The general fund needed some tightening up on allocations paid out for the wrong fiscal year. The highway fund also had a truck payment made that may not have been coded under the correct line item. Highway surplus might best be transferred to a capital equipment fund or make its own cash account. Numbers need to get cleaned up by research or asking questions to see if the closing balances on 6/30/2022 are accurate.

Alburgh Family Clubhouse Letter of Support

- **Donna Boumil motioned to approve a letter of support for the Clubhouse so they can apply for grant funding. Josie Henry seconded, all in favor. So approved.**

Meeting with the State of Vermont re: Center Bay

Josie Henry asked the board's opinion on having the town attorney attend this meeting with some members of the selectboard. No motions made.

Adjourn

- **Russell Duchaine motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM. Donna Boumil seconded, all in favor. So adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle James Choiniere

Zoom recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/_PsRwRNTFQp9mNwY39K4TlpZMbWnGlcZ0ihQNyzdO7xWc1VE891DJ82Pv8NzEt.Rx4VsEEq10CZETbv?startTime=1675116506000

~*~ These are draft minutes not slated for approval until the next regular board meeting ~*~