



43 to spread out the cost. The new radios connect to the new air packs with blue tooth and make  
44 communication much clearer. Lorna questioned the forest fire line. Bill said that if there is a  
45 brush fire and other departments are called in, that line covers paying them. That line can also  
46 be used to match available grants. Tom **made a motion** to accept the Fire budget #4220 with  
47 gross expenses of \$161,703, revenue of \$100, net expenses of \$161,603, pending further review.  
48 **Motion seconded** by Steve. Vote was 6 – 1 – 0 with David opposed. **Motion carried.**

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50 Sue said that after the last meeting, the Budget Committee talked about re-visiting some budgets  
51 to look for possible reductions since the budget is currently at 9.44% increase. She added that  
52 after tonight's meeting, she will e-mail department heads and let them know the committee will  
53 be looking at their budgets again at the public hearing so that department heads can be present  
54 to discuss their budgets.

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56 **Rescue #4215**

57 Chief Bill Tapley, EMS Captain Jon Goldman, and Deputy Chief Mike Devine presented this  
58 budget. Jon explained that the stipend is paid to 17 EMT's based on the call volume. The Health  
59 line is to pay for vaccinations or other health care needs for the responders. David asked if the  
60 training line was going to be spent this year. Jon said that this year there was no one that needed  
61 recertification training for EMT's. There are two in classes right now. Equipment Maintenance  
62 covers the contract costs for all the AED cardiac monitors in town, including the rescue vehicles,  
63 all the government buildings, and the police cruisers. Steve asked if Parkland reimburses us for  
64 medications we purchase for the ambulance. Jon explained that there is a MOU that says  
65 Parkland will supply the medications, but if there are shortages Jon purchases what they need  
66 from their own vendor with no reimbursement. David asked about revenue and why we haven't  
67 received any yet this year. Jon said that no one had been transported so far this year. In past  
68 years some transports were done, but funds are not always received. Sue **made a motion** to  
69 increase the Stipend line to \$34,000. **Motion seconded** by Tom. Vote was 6 – 1 – 0 with David  
70 opposed. **Motion carried.** Lorna **made a motion** to accept the Rescue budget #4215 with gross  
71 expenses of \$51,650, revenue of zero, net expenses of \$51,650, pending further review. **Motion**  
72 **seconded** by Steve. Vote was 6 – 1 – 0 with David opposed. **Motion carried.**

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74 **Library #4550**

75 Deb Hoadley, Library Director, and Tina Owens, Diana True, Peter Stock, and Carol Fournier,  
76 Library Trustees presented this budget. Deb explained that their original budget proposal was a  
77 6.4% increase. The Board of Selectmen approved a 3% increase. That budget includes the part  
78 time position going to an exempt position. David asked about the reduction in the Books, Mags,  
79 Audio line. Deb said the Library Trustees can move funds around within their budget. The library  
80 is at a critical point in needing to do something with the staff to be able to accomplish what they  
81 want. Deb explained the library has a Fines account that can be used to pay for materials for a  
82 short term if needed. It is not by law allowed to be continually used for that purpose, but for one  
83 year it can be. The Trustees stressed that staffing is critical now and therefore they are willing to  
84 make adjustment and sacrifices. The full time position will start April 1 and can still happen even

85 in a default budget. David said that he wouldn't want to see things like books and technology  
86 items be reduced because some residents depend on the library technology. Steve asked about  
87 the increases in the benefits and NHRS lines. Deb explained the increases are a result of going  
88 from one employee with benefits to two. David asked if the outreach programs they talk about  
89 are happening in the schools and if so, aren't some of the town tax dollars bleeding into the  
90 school. Deb said these are after school programs at the school and holding them at the school  
91 reduces the need for transportation to get the kids to the library. Deb added that she recently  
92 learned that there will be buses from all the schools that will stop at the library, which will enable  
93 more programs at the library. She added that there is a space issue at the library building, which  
94 is why there have been several events held at the town hall this year as well. The Trustees would  
95 prefer to run all the programs at the library, but there just isn't enough space. Tina said that  
96 63% of residents in Sandown have a library card and last year there were over 23,000 interactions  
97 with the library, either in person, online, or through Facebook. Deb explained the Co-op of the  
98 libraries in Sandown, Atkinson, and Plaistow and how that brings more choices to all the residents  
99 for materials. Sue asked about the other funds the library has available to offset costs. Deb said  
100 the Friends of the Library have a fund mainly for programming, Fines account for materials, and  
101 the copier account to offset the copy costs. Sue **made a motion** to approve the Library budget  
102 #4550 with gross expenses of \$335,334 (4.5% increase), revenue of zero, net expenses of  
103 \$335,334, pending further review. **Motion seconded** by Fran. Tom commented that Monday  
104 night he voted for a 3% increase in this budget. Vote was 4 – 3 – 0 with David, Steve, and Tom  
105 opposed. **Motion carried.**

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### 107 **Discussion of Budget in Progress Status**

108 The committee discussed approaches to reducing the budget. The consensus was to look at the  
109 following budgets in more detail: Town Clerk, Police, Highway Facility, Sanitation Facility,  
110 Sanitation Operating, Sanitation Site, Recycling, Parks & Recreation, Summer & Special  
111 Recreation, Patriotic Purposes, Tan Note, and Fire. Sue asked what the goal of the committee is  
112 for an increase amount. Lorna said that a 3% increase is not realistic because the payroll increase  
113 itself was 3% and is in almost every budget. David doesn't have a specific number in mind, but  
114 he wants to make sure the needs are met. As an example, if we cut sanitation again, we will be  
115 chasing the problem again next year. He added that almost \$50,000 in raises and over \$10,000  
116 in stipends have been approved. For one year he would like to see zero payroll increases and get  
117 everything else up to speed. The next year raises can be addressed. David wonders how we can  
118 catch up. Tom said zero for raises is tough on morale. Tom said maybe instead of 3%, do a 1%  
119 or 2%. David understands the morale issues with no pay raises, but there is something to be said  
120 for filling other needs. It can make your job more enjoyable if you have what you need to do the  
121 job. Tom said we also need to look at the building infrastructure. Amanda feels the majority of  
122 the increases is going to the physical needs such as trash, roads, buildings and not as much to  
123 payroll. Changing the payroll amounts will not make up the difference that we are looking for.  
124 David feels a change in payroll will help to fund the increase in the sanitation and recycle budgets  
125 that have been \$10,000 to \$15,000 behind every year. Lorna stated that a 3% raise is not  
126 necessarily seen by the employees because the other costs for insurances, for example, have

127 increased as well. David said ignoring the physical aspects of this town any longer is a dangerous  
128 proposition. He said it is not a personal slight, but he wants to make sure the physical part of the  
129 town is taken care of too. Steve said the amount of money that this town takes to operate is not  
130 very high. He is concerned if we don't give the great people who work in this town something to  
131 keep them here, it will cost us down the line. Steve cannot accept a 9% increase. He feels that  
132 there are opportunities to look at the budgets and bring it down to 6% by going through them  
133 line by line. David said he knows what the employees bring to the table. If he runs his business  
134 by increasing his employees pay, but not maintaining the equipment, the business will not last  
135 very long. We need to take care of DPW and the vehicles they have, it will cost us this year. Steve  
136 agrees that there are ways to take care of the equipment such as plows, trucks, roads. We can  
137 look at these budgets and accomplish both, taking care of our people and taking care of our  
138 infrastructure with a 6% increase. David and Fran disagree. Fran doesn't see any place to cut  
139 \$100,000 and still have the infrastructure and the raises. We may have to cut a percent off  
140 everything. Sue is not in favor of reducing the raises. She feels there are other places in the  
141 budget to cut. Maybe gradually bring up some of the budgets that the Committee has increased  
142 instead of all in one year. If that is the case, she would run again for Budget Committee to ensure  
143 that happens over the next three years. In addition to the operating budget, there will also be  
144 warrant articles to consider.

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146 At 8:33, Sue adjourned the meeting.

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Minutes respectfully submitted by

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Cheryl Eastman

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