

43 fireworks is not high on the list of priorities, but she would vote for it because every year the
44 town passes the warrant article to fund Old Home Days and the fireworks is part of that. Tom
45 stated that every year the Police Explorers volunteer at the event, the Mencis's donate the land,
46 and it is a good deal for the price. David said he would like to see it cut in half at least and turn
47 it more into a fee-based event. He added that if we don't touch any budget, we won't find any
48 cuts. He feels there should be more fee-based events to offset the costs.

49

50 **Community Assistance # 4445**

51 Lynne Blaisdell spoke to this budget. She said the actual expenses as of today is \$9,090. Fran
52 thought that perhaps the electricity or oil lines could be reduced because of the actual spent back
53 in October when the budget was first presented. With the updated actuals, no motion was
54 made.

55

56 **Town Clerk #4140-02**

57 Dawn Nicolaisen spoke to this budget. She said she can reduce the Office Equipment line by \$300
58 because she was able to purchase the stools in 2018. She also said the Dog Licenses line can be
59 reduced to \$267 because she received the actual invoice today. She has also reduced the payroll
60 line by re-configuring the schedules of the two employees and not increasing their hours. Lorna
61 asked if there is currently a folding machine. Dawn said there is one, but it only works on one
62 page at a time and therefore doesn't save any time. She reported that the Town Clerk's office
63 folds around 800 motor vehicle registration reminders every month, 2,800 tax bills twice a year,
64 and around 1,600 dog license renewals each year. They are all folded manually. Sue **made a**
65 **motion** to adjust the payroll line to \$47,653. **Motion seconded** by Tom. The vote was all in favor
66 except David who was opposed. **Motion carried.** Sue **made a motion** to adjust the Dog License
67 line to \$267. **Motion seconded** by Tom. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.** Sue **made a motion**
68 to adjust the Office Equipment line to \$1,318. **Motion seconded** by Lorna. All voted in favor.
69 **Motion carried.** Sue **made a motion** to accept the Town Clerk budget #4140-02 with gross
70 expenses of \$52,791, revenue of \$1,393,137, and net expenses of negative \$1,340,346, pending
71 further review. **Motion seconded** by Lorna. Vote was all in favor except David who opposed.
72 **Motion carried.**

73

74 **Police #4210**

75 Chief Joe Gordon spoke to this budget. Sue questioned if the Chief could reduce the cruiser line
76 by \$5,000 and take those funds out of the Special Detail Revolving fund. Joe said that he would
77 be okay with reducing the cruiser line by \$5,373 which is the amount of the upfit for the new
78 cruiser. There was discussion regarding how fast funds are added to the revolving fund. Sue
79 **made a motion** to reduce the cruiser line by \$5,373. **Motion seconded** by Steve. Tom stated he
80 will vote no because he would rather see the town purchase cruisers instead of leasing. David
81 agrees with Tom. There was discussion regarding leasing vs purchasing equipment. Joe stated
82 that the annual tax impact is less if the cruisers are leased. The vote was 4 – 2 – 1 with Sue, Steve,
83 Lorna, and Amanda in favor, Tom and David opposed, and Fran abstained. **Motion carried.** Sue
84 **made a motion** to accept the Police budget #4210 with gross expenses of \$747,262, revenue of

85 \$3,275, and net expenses of \$743,987, pending further review. **Motion seconded** by Steve. The
86 vote was 4 – 2 – 1 with Sue, Steve, Lorna, and Amanda in favor, David and Tom opposed, and
87 Fran abstained. **Motion carried.**

88

89 **Animal Control #4414**

90 Chief Gordon spoke to this budget. Sue questioned if reductions could be made since over the
91 past couple years the entire budget has not been expended. Joe said that the person in the
92 position right now has been here for more than a year, but it is not working out as well as he had
93 hoped. He will be having a conversation with the Board of Selectmen soon asking to hire 2 part
94 time people to fill the position instead of one. That should give them better coverage. The current
95 ACO is not as available as needed and has also severed ties with the Doberman Rescue, which is
96 the department's source of housing for animals. That has caused a problem. Joe asked the
97 Committee to leave this budget as is until he can get a better grasp on what is coming.

98

99 **Rescue #4215**

100 Jon Goldman addressed this budget. Sue said she would propose to return the stipend line to
101 the original amount requested by Jon. The Board of Selectmen had voted to increase it from
102 31,000 to 34,000 because it had been overspent the last few years. Jon said he would be fine
103 with reducing that line back to 31,000. Sue realizes that the stipends need to be increased, but
104 her concern this year is getting a budget that will pass. Jon said he would not fight over \$4,000
105 and even if there were no funds in the stipend line, the personnel would still respond. They are
106 not doing the job for the money. Fran asked about reducing the Training or Health line. Jon said
107 he would rather see the cut come from the stipend line. The training line covers the 2 people
108 that are already in school. Sue **made a motion** to reduce the Stipend line to \$31,000. **Motion**
109 **seconded** by Lorna. Vote was 6 – 1 – 0 with Steve opposed. **Motion carried.** Sue **made a motion**
110 to accept the Rescue budget #4215 with gross expenses of \$48,650, revenue of zero, gross
111 expenses of \$48,650, pending further review. **Motion seconded** by Tom. Vote was 6 – 1- 0 with
112 Steve opposed. **Motion carried.**

113

114 **Library #4550**

115 Deb Hoadley, Library Director, and Diana True, Trustee spoke to this budget. Steve **made a**
116 **motion** to accept the Library budget #4550 at 3% with gross expenses of \$330,521, pending
117 further review. He feels that is the right thing to do. **Motion seconded** by David. The vote was
118 2 – 5 – 0 with David and Steve in favor and Tom, Sue, Amanda, Lorna, and Fran against. **Motion**
119 **failed.**

120

121 **Highway Operating #4312**

122 Artie Genauldo spoke to this budget. Sue stated that Artie had made comments that every year
123 the budget is cut and every year he asks for what he needs. She understands what he is saying
124 but feels that we can't undo all the damage done over the last years in one year. David feels that
125 we cannot go back and cut items like plowing, salt, sand because the budget doesn't even cover
126 the actuals for the last several years. It will take years to catch up. Sue said that the plowing, salt,

127 and sand lines were increased but the plowing will get done if the funds are in the budget or not.
128 Sue is proposing reducing the plowing line to \$200,000 and the salt back to \$107,000. She added
129 that she had not planned on running for Budget Committee again, but she will to ensure that
130 increases are added to this budget over the next few years to make sure it gets done. She cannot
131 support all the increases in one year. Lorna suggesting splitting the difference between Artie's
132 budget and the Board of Selectmen's budget. Tom stated that in 2016, 2017, and 2018 we spent
133 more than \$107,000 in salt. It would be bad budgeting to not fund that. He would vote no.
134 Amanda feels that Sue's proposal is a good compromise. Steve proposed reducing the paving
135 line to \$100,000 and leaving the plowing and salt lines to what the Board of Selectmen approved.
136 Lorna would support that as well. Fran said she is in between the two and would reduce the
137 paving by \$10,000 and the salt by \$5,000. Tom talked about the Consultant/Engineering line that
138 was added this year and what would happen if that were reduced. Artie said the extra would
139 have to come from the warrant article instead. There was continued discussion regarding
140 plowing, paving, and road reconstruction. Artie said they should take the \$10,000 out of the
141 paving line. Steve **made a motion** to reduce the paving line to \$100,000. **Motion seconded** by
142 Fran. Vote was 4 – 3 with Fran, Lorna, Steve, and Tom in favor and Sue, David, and Amanda
143 opposed. **Motion carried.** Amanda questioned the idea of no payroll increases. David said he
144 has been saying that since the beginning. Steve and Sue said they would not support no
145 increases. David said he does not understand how we can increase payroll and ignore things that
146 are always overspent. He said we choose 17 minutes of fireworks over paving the roads and he
147 just doesn't get it. Lynne asked for a recess while she discusses some options with Artie. At 8:11,
148 Sue called a recess. At 8:17 the meeting resumed. Artie asked if the Committee would be willing
149 to leave this budget as is until the public hearing. He stated he may be able to use some block
150 grant funds to reduce what he is asking for. Tom **made a motion** to accept the Highway Operating
151 budget #4312 with gross expenses of \$726,318, revenue of \$1, net expenses of \$726,317,
152 pending further review. **Motion seconded** by Steve. Vote was 4 – 3 with Sue, David, and Amanda
153 opposed. **Motion carried.**

154

155 **Sanitation Facility #4321-28**

156 Artie spoke to this budget. Fran asked about a potential savings on electricity. Artie said IF the
157 budget passes, he has money in the Repair/Maintenance line to buy the converters for the
158 compactors and have them installed. That would result in savings in electricity.

159

160 **Recycling #4326**

161 Artie spoke to this budget. Amanda asked why there was a jump in expenses in the Disposal line
162 in 2018. Artie said the rates had increased and it depends on the amount of material that people
163 bring in. This line covers construction debris and electronics. Fran stated that the Board of
164 Selectmen had increased this budget and then the Budget Committee increased it more. Fran
165 **made a motion** to reduce the Disposal line to \$42,000. **Motion seconded** by Sue. Vote was 4 -3
166 with Sue, Steve, Fran, and Amanda in favor and David, Lorna and Tom opposed. **Motion carried.**
167 Fran **made a motion** to change the Hauling line to \$60,000. **Motion seconded** by Sue. The vote
168 was 4 – 3 with Sue, Fran, Amanda, and Tom in favor and Steve, Lorna, and David opposed. **Motion**

169 **carried.** Fran **made a motion** to accept the Recycling budget #4326 with gross expenses of
170 \$103,351, revenue of \$18,000, gross expenses of \$85,351, pending further review. **Motion**
171 **seconded** by Sue. The vote was 5 – 2 with Lorna and David opposed. **Motion carried.**

172

173 **Parks & Recreation #4520-36**

174 Deb Brown, Recreation Director and Recreation Commission member Jess Scarlet spoke to this
175 budget. Fran asked if the shade gazebo under new equipment might be done as a boy scout or
176 community project instead. Deb explained that project has been in the budget for years and
177 because of the default it was removed. Deb said that the Ballfield/Playground line can be
178 reduced by \$600. Fran suggested that Community Programs and Senior Recreation lines be cut
179 in half. Jess feels that \$1,000 is not a lot of money to put on the events they do. Deb said that
180 the Community line is already stretched as much as she can. That line covers three events
181 throughout the year. Fran **made a motion** to reduce the Ballfield/Playground line to \$5,000.
182 **Motion seconded** by Amanda. The vote was 6 – 1 with Tom opposed. **Motion carried.** Fran
183 **made a motion** to accept the Parks & Recreation budget #4520-36 with gross expenses of
184 \$97,189, revenue of \$1, gross expenses of \$97,188, pending further review. **Motion seconded**
185 by Sue. The vote was 5 – 2 with Tom and David opposed. **Motion carried.**

186

187 **Summer & Special Recreation #4520-37**

188 David said he would like to see this program become self-sufficient. He feels the registration fees
189 should wash out the expenses because not everyone in town should pay for services for other
190 people’s kids who use the program. Deb said the program fees cover the payroll costs now and
191 in the past the town had passed a warrant article that did not expect the program to fund itself.
192 There was an increase last year in the participation and therefore the costs increased. There was
193 such an increase that she had to step in several times to meet the staff/child ratios required. She
194 added that she doesn’t use the police department or fire department but is very glad they are
195 there. This is a community and some of these programs are important and serve hundreds of
196 kids and families in town.

197

198 Sue reminded everyone that the Public Hearing on the budget will be held next Wednesday,
199 January 9, 2019 starting at 6:00 p.m. The Committee will be finalizing the budget and making
200 recommendations on the warrant articles.

201

202 At 8:45 the meeting adjourned.

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205

Minutes respectfully submitted by

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Cheryl Eastman