

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday March 28, 2023

Meeting called to order: 1600

Attendees: Mark Wigley (ZOOM), Robert Scott, Colleen Dana-Cummings, Victoria Ganz, Don Bailey, Bub Andrews, Council Liaison, Several members of the public.

The Public Works requests were attended to first. Supervisor Howie Johnson briefed the committee on their need for new vehicles; a mid-size International dump truck with plow and sander, Skidsteer for sweeping streets, and a 2500 pickup truck with plow. Some monies have been previously set aside by Council and from old equipment sales. Also, Howie believes the sale of the old Freightliner dump truck could bring another \$70 – 90,000.

The committee would recommend Council use a single loan with single payment for purchasing all three vehicles. The City Manager will research banks and interest rates.

Loring Small gave a briefing on the Shellfish Committee and wardens. He will be applying for a State conservation grant to help with seeding the flats.

Animal Control is in need of another vehicle. A used vehicle was discussed and some suggestions for sharing another City vehicle. Suggestion for possibly getting a vehicle the Port Authority no longer requires and using a trailer to ferry animals.

The Police Dept. was tabled for a later date as the Chief could not attend due to illness.

Administration budget was addressed by the City Manager. The discussion focused on her pay and contract at the start. Copies of her contract were passed out to members. A short, tense, discussion ensued about this.

A question was raised if \$6,000 was enough money for training a new Assessor/CEO/LPI. The City Manager will check the cost to train the previous person and get back to us.

A member requested that the city budget be formatted to show individual position deductions for salary, health insurance, social security, etc. It was decided to vote on this. Following the meeting it was noticed that there was some confusion over the vote on this item. The Secretary and Chair discussed this by email the next day. The Chair believed it passed 3-2 although there were six members present. Being on ZOOM he could not see one member or hear his vote. He believed the secretary voted yes while a Council member did not hear the secretary vote at all. The Secretary believes he voted no and that Chair misspoke as to the tally. The Chair will consult with the City Manager and Legal to see what should be done to correct this.

Dean Pike was elected as Vice Chair and it was also voted to forward alternate Colleen Dana-Cummings's name for Council approval as a full member.

The Chair stated that some members were passing copies of the draft budgets to the public. He indicated that this could cause confusion if a new draft was made. He suggests a tighter flow of

information and that members should direct the public to City Hall for questions or copies of the budget. Hopes are that this will alleviate the multiple budget copies and confusion seen last year.

Discussion on the department head meetings and workshops ensued. It was decided to hold weekly meetings and bump the current schedule up to those dates. No meeting will be held for April 18 as some members will be absent.

Next meeting is 4 April 2023. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM