

Town of Arundel
Joint Meeting of Board of Selectmen and Budget Board
Minutes
Wednesday 4th January, 2017
Mildred L. Day School Library
600 Limerick Road

Members in Attendance

Board of Selectmen: Phil Labbe, Jason Nedeau

Budget Board: Shawn Hayes, Jack Reetz, Michelle Moore, John Bell

Other Attendees: Keith Trefethen, Town Manager

I. Call to Order: Chair Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

II. Approval of Agenda: Ms. Moore moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Reetz seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Reetz moved to approve the minutes of the Budget Board meeting of 12 October 2016. Ms. Moore seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

III. 17/18 Municipal Operating Budget Development: Mr. Reetz suggested that the meeting focus initially on the most significant budget items and leave the more routine items until later. He suggested that Professional Services, the Recreation budget and Police Patrol services be given priority, because of their proposed increases.

The Town Manager stated that the proposed budget contained approximately \$129,000 of new spending and he would like to review those items starting with Professional Services. He said that \$5,000 had been added to the budget to cover costs of mapping which had not been updated since 2014, during which time there had been significant property changes particularly in the area of the Arundel Cottages. Mr. Reetz asked if the mapping costs would allow for on-line access to property records. Mr. Trefethen replied that the Tax Assessor was looking into the cost of such a service, but that it was not included in the present budget proposal.

The Town Manager noted that the cost of rescue supplies in the Fire Dept budget had been increased by \$1,300 to cover the cost of "soft supplies" which had previously been provided by the local hospital. In response to a question from Mr. Reetz, Mr. Trefethen raised the possibility of establishing a capital reserve budget for certain Fire Department equipment. Mr. Reetz suggested trying to pare some of the current expenses in the department to help cover capital reserves and Mr. Trefethen agreed. Mr. Nedeau suggested using TIF funds to cover some equipment costs and the Town Manager agreed to research that possibility. Mr. Trefethen stated that he had increased the EMT Per Diem costs by fifty cents per hour which added \$10,080 to the proposed budget and there followed a discussion of the problem of retaining EMT personnel.

Mr. Trefethen stated that he had included approximately \$100,000 in the proposed budget to cover the cost of an additional Sheriff's Deputy and police cruiser, should that item be approved. Mr. Reetz noted the difficulty of ascertaining the benefit of a second police officer from the data supplied by the Sheriff. After considerable discussion, Mr. Bell suggested postponing the

question until the overall budget was developed further.

An increase in pay and benefits of 1.6% for Town employees added \$36,217 to the budget. Mr. Trefethen noted that this included an increase in health benefits which was substantial this year. He informed the Boards that he was exploring the possibility of self insuring with the towns of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport, but that he expected considerable push-back on this idea from the Teacher's Union. Mr. Bell enquired if there had been any estimates from the RSU as to their budget for the upcoming year. Mr. Reetz stated that RSU budget discussions were just getting started but that he anticipated only a modest increase. He also stated that he expected only minor changes in the County Budget for the upcoming year.

Further discussion centered on funding for the Leeman(?) Center in Alfred.

In response to a question from Mr. Hayes, the Town Manager addressed difficulties associated with the call company which resulted in a proposed 32% reduction in funding.

Mr. Bell enquired if anything could be done to more accurately estimate Arundel's valuation, given last year's inaccurate estimate and its substantial impact on the mil rate. Mr. Trefethen said he would broach the subject with the Tax Assessor.

Mr. Trefethen also addressed the impact of the new minimum wage law on the Recreation Department, and the fact that fees charged by the department would need to be revised upward to minimize costs to the taxpayer.

IV. Establish additional meeting schedule: It was agreed to hold joint meetings on a bi-weekly basis and the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 18th January at 7:00 pm. The next meeting will be primarily devoted to the Fire Department and the 1100 & 1200 accounts.

V. Other Business and Adjournment: There being no other business, Mr. Bell moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Reetz, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and accurate record of the Budget Board meeting of January 4th, 2017.

John Bell
Secretary, Budget Board