Lee Advisory Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes November 10, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Meeting came to order at 6:39 pm

Advisors in attendance: Tom Murdoch, Scott Bugbee, Rebecca Hawthorne, Pat Barbour, Cord Blomquist, Stacy Waitz and Cary Brown

Others in attendance: None

Advisor Murdoch read the right to know law meeting checklist:

As Chair of the Advisory Budget Committee, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu’s Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is meeting electronically utilizing the Zoom platform.

We previously gave notice to the public of how to access this meeting using Zoom and instructions are provided on the Town of Lee’s website at: leenh.org

If anybody has a problem with access, please call <insert phone number here>

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Let’s start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

and took roll call attendance.

   Scott Bugbee – Present, no one else in the room, Rebecca Hawthorne – Present, with baby in the room, Pat Barbour – Present, no one else in the room, Cord Blomquist – Present, no one else in the room, Tom Murdoch – Present, no one else in the room. Stacy Waitz- Present, no one else in the room, Cary Brown- Present, no one else in the room

1) ABC discusses goal to review presentations and budget requests that have already been submitted and determine if what we would like to recommend to the BOS. ABC reviewed process

2) ABC agrees with the requested budgets for the following:

   a) Elections and registration

   b) Town clerk/tax collector

   c) Cemetery

   d) Highway

   e) Transfer
f) Solid waste

g) Health services. This was an overall decrease; however, Oyster River Women Aide is a new group that the ABC is recommending that the town fund.

h) Long term debt

i) Interest on long term debt

j) Agriculture

k) Patriotic purposes

l) Water treatment, Distribution and Conservation

m) Animal Control

3) ABC suggested the following changes or is awaiting more information on the following:

a) Police. ABC reviewed provided data showing that calls are up including an increase in felony and domestic calls. The Police Department long term goal is for 11 officers which they would need to have them be fully staffed at current population levels. ABC discussed whether a new patrol car was needed this year and if instead this money could be saved to fund a new officer. ABC has asked for more info on current cars. ABC tentatively will recommend the submitted budget with the exception of the new equipment line.

b) Parks and Rec. ABC will recommend level funding of ORYA at $15K. ABC agrees with the remainder of the requested budget.

c) Library. ABC decides to recommend a cap of $250,000 for the library budget with the understanding that the trustees may choose to do with the budget what they deem best. Selectmen Bugbee will review Library budget and create a suggested budget that falls within the $250,000 to be presented at the next internal ABC meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.