Lee Advisory Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes December 12, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Meeting came to order at 1:36pm

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

Others in attendance:

1) Advisor Murdoch read the Right to Know Law Meeting Checklist: and took roll call attendance.

   Town Of Lee Right To Know Meeting Checklist:

   As Chair if 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 603-659-2766

   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.

   Scott Bugbee- present and alone, Rebecca Hawthorne – present with infant, Pat Barbour- present and alone, Stacey Waitz- present and alone, Cord Blomquist- present and alone, Tom Murdoch-present and alone

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

   a) Selectmen’s Budget
   b) Financial Administration
   c) IT Services
   d) Assessing
   e) Legal Fees
   f) Planning and zoning
   g) Property Insurance
   h) Dispatch
   i) Ambulance
   j) Code Enforcement
   k) Emergency management
   l) Solid Waste and disposal
   m) Animal Control
   n) General Assistance
   o) Direct welfare Assistance
   p) ORYA
3) ABC suggested the following changes or is awaiting more information on the following:
   a) Government Buildings - Suggest review of the Daly building line item and the number of months that are being budgeted for
   b) Library - Reviewed ABC’s recommendation to reduce budget to $250,000
   c) Police - Suggest removing new car and funding a new full-time officer
   d) Fire - Suggest funding a full-time fire fighter

4) CIP/Warrant article:
   a) Remove Town Hall Renovation CRF
   b) Remove Revaluation Fund Deposit
   c) Remove recreation fund
   d) Remove Town fair from tax funds and fund from TF balance
   e) Reduce Highway Equipment to $40,000
   f) Accrued Benefits - Increase deposit to $30,000 to fully fund account within 4 years

5) Other Recommendations:
   a) ABC is concerned about growing liabilities of the Accrued Benefits account and how the fund is underfunded.

6) Scott Bugbee moves to recommend to Town of Lee Select Board a $4,461,503.60 operating budget and $522,695 warrant budget for a total of $4,984,198.60, Pat Barbour seconded the motion.

   Scott Bugbee- yes, Rebecca Hawthorne – yes, Pat Barbour- yes, Stacey Waitz- yes, Cord Blomquist- yes, Tom Murdoch- yes Motion Passes

7) Scott Bugbee moves for creation of a document with recommendations from ABC to Select Board including: recommended budget and changes therein of: inclusion of new fire fighter, inclusion of new police officer, removal of police cruiser, reduction of requested ORYA request, additional deposit to accrued benefits account; and reduction of Capital Deposits to Highway, Reevaluation, Town Hall Renovation and Town Fair Accounts, Cord Blomquist seconded the motion.

   Scott Bugbee- yes, Rebecca Hawthorne – yes, Pat Barbour- yes, Stacey Waitz- yes, Cord Blomquist- yes, Tom Murdoch- yes Motion Passes

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm