

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD, NH**  
**MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
George B. White Building  
8 Raymond Rd. Deerfield, NH 03037

**October 29, 2019**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order** at 7:00 PM by Chair.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:** In attendance; Phil Bilodeau, Bill Von Hassel, John Dubiansky, Zach Langlois, Herman Pretorius, Terry Roy, Brad Briggs, Bonnie Beaubein, Alden Dill, Andrew Robertson  
Excused Absence; JoAnne Bradbury

**Approval of Minutes for 4/30/19:**

**Motion:** Mr. Langlois

**2nd:** Mr. Dill

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** 8 Yea, 0 Nay, 2 Abstain - **Motion Carries**

**Approval of Minutes for 9/17/19:**

**Motion:** Mr. Dill

**2nd:** Mr. Langlois

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** 6 Yea, 0 Nay, 4 Abstain - **Motion Carries**

**Discussion of Town and School Budgets:**

Mr. Robertson spoke regarding town budget. Four or five departments are the bulk of the budget.

Mr. Roy asked if one time money from the state was included. Mr. Robertson stated that it is not, the first half of state money will be used to offset taxes rather than spent.

Mr. Pretorius mentioned a scheduling conflict with the Welfare Dept scheduled to present at the Nov 26th meeting. Mr. Robertson said that is a fairly straight forward budget that will be explained rather quickly and adequately. Mr. Pretorius said that they will change the schedule to reflect that the Welfare Dept will be in attendance on Nov. 19th instead of Nov. 26th.

Mr. Robertson handed out copies of the town budget. He stated that it is not final yet. Most have been approved but health insurance rates have not been included yet. The town's reevaluation contract is up. They have a quote from the current assessor, Avatar, and have put out an RFP to compare competitors. Typically, Avatar gives the best quote and others decline

to bid. They haven't gotten numbers back from potential bidders yet and so haven't finalized that budget yet. Bids should be back by 11/13, with a decision soon after that.

Mr. Robertson explained the increase in the technology line. The town computers and software need to be upgraded to be compatible with security software. Some will be offset by grants but needs to be listed as an expense as this is a gross budget.

Mr. Robertson explained the increase in the emergency services line. The \$23,900 charge is an anticipated grant.

Mr. Robertson also responded to a citizen comment made by Kevin Verville during public comments at the previous MBC meeting with regard to road conditions. The Selectboard has signed a contract with Southern NH Planning, in conjecture with NH DOT, to do a road survey and analysis to include dirt roads, analysis of pavement on paved roads, drainage, ditching, and culverts. They talked with the road agent and the road agent is in agreement that they will put together a general reconstruction warrant article. The road agent would prefer to not have that in his operating budget in case the budget fails. The separate warrant article will not name specific roads, will be in the neighborhood of \$250,000, to double up on reconstruction efforts that have been made in the last year or two. A separate warrant article gives the town a firm say in whether or not they want to spend money on improving roads. Mr. Pretorius asked if the state pays for state roads, specifically South Road. Mr. Robertson stated that the state has not done that in 25-30 years. Mr. Bilodeau asked when the survey is expected to be finished. Mr. Robertson said there is a date in the contract but he does not recall what it is, but it will be before paving and reconstruction season.

Mr. Langlois stated that the School Board has received the school budget from administration and they will be working on it for the next month or so. Mr. Langlois stated the fund balance is \$710, 240.73. The surplus is \$500,000 special education due to changes that can't be discussed, \$120,000 for a reduction of 10 high school students, and the remainder from the DCS operating budget. Mr. Roy asked if one time money from the state was included. Mr. Langlois stated that they haven't fully discussed that yet. Admin/SAU office are still determining what is coming. Mr. Langlois said that his guess is that it will be returned to the taxpayers as it is part of the surplus but he doesn't have any hard numbers yet.

Mr. Dill asked if there would be any major infrastructure warrant articles for either the town or school, aside from the road construction. Mr. Robertson said nothing for the town other than the road reconstruction. He said it is likely the town will ask for planning money to reconstitute the police department study group. Because that warrant article failed last year, they weren't able to spend any money on attempting to put together a plan and present a police department to the community. The Selectboard still feels we are in serious need of a police department, probably also a fire department, but they are starting with the police department. Low interest loans were available from the Fed in the fall. One of the requirements to apply was that they needed architectural schematics to present with the applications and because the warrant failed, there were advised by legal that they couldn't use any surplus to pay for plans for a police department. Mr. Langlois said the School Board has been discussing expansion at DCS for several years. They are currently over capacity for students. They are discussing a possible warrant article for engineering money. A lot of work needs to be done between now and then. There is a chance of it this year, but if not, expect it next year. Mr. Pretorius asked

about the fields at DCS. Mr. Langlois stated that they will continue to service and repair fields as needed and that they may end up part of a larger project if there is expansion at DCS.

**New Business:** Tina St. Peter has been hired as transcriptionist for the MBC.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Langlois

**2nd:** Mr. Dill

**Vote:** 10 Yea, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain - **Meeting Adjourned at 7:21 PM**