

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY BUDGET  
COMMITTEE BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**November 29, 2022**

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**Board & Committee members present:** Chairman Bugbee, Thomas Murdoch, Pat Barbour, Bambi Miller and Cord Blomquist.

**Not present:** Chairperson Stacey Waitz

1. Acting Chair Murdoch calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. The group discusses insurance coverage and costs. The group understands that the numbers they have in front of them include the new library position. Chairman Bugbee says that TA Robertson will be calculating the ancillary expenses for the library.

The group reviews the P&Z budget. There is a brief discussion with regards to what the Town of Lee gets for being a paying member of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission.

The group discusses the recent change in the Transfer Station. A part-time position was recently made into a full-time position after a part-timer did not work out.

Chairman Bugbee updates the group on the solar energy that is going in at the Transfer Station.

There is a question as to whether there is going to be a warrant article for the Cemetery Trustees to raise money to repair cemetery fences.

No one has any questions on Property Liability.

The Police Chief is asking for an increase in his salary from \$90k to \$105k. Chairman Bugbee says that the Select Board is currently discussing this with him.

Chairman Bugbee says that the Select Board is looking at a step salary program for all employees and not just for the Police Department.

The group does not have any comments on the Fire Department, Code Enforcement or Emergency Management budgets.

Pat Barbour asks if the Town can keep Steve Bullek for \$84k per year. The assistant position for Steve is not in the budget right now. The group discusses adding a part-time person. Chairman Bugbee says that there is someone that is interested in this position and Steve is in favor of this person. If this position were to be 20hr per week at \$20 then it would be \$20,800 per year. The group discusses reducing the paving budget.

The group tries to figure out if the new full-time Solid Waste Operator position is in the TS budget now or not.

They still need the final number for the Lamprey Regional Solid Waste Cooperative costs.

The group reviews the social service lines and add \$2000 in for Womenade. They talk about how resourceful our welfare director is. The group agrees not to fund ORYA. They would like to see a compelling social welfare case i.e. how many families in Lee does ORYA scholarship?

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The group discusses the Recreation programs. They do not believe that the Fair is asking for money for the fireworks this year.

The group discusses the library budget. They will discuss a possible flat dollar amount after they get the ancillary expenses.

The group does not make any changes to the Conservation Commission budget.

Chairman Bugbee reviews what he is going to ask about: computer replacements, health insurance, cemetery fence, dispatch number, part-time highway assistant, paving reduction, full-time TS person, internet provider question, add Womenade in at \$2000, library ancillary expenses, how much are the elderly exemptions costing the town, ask about pushing food composting and ORYA subsidy for Lee kids. Cord Blomquist says that it is better to have old people live here in Lee than to have young families with several kids. He says that the money the town does not get from the elder exemption is way less than the tax increase that the family with kids will generate.

3. Acting Chair Murdoch moves to adjourn at 8:10 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Denise Duval, Assistant Town Administrator