



## **BUDGET COMMITTEE - 2018**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**February 12, 2018, 6:30 pm – Town Office**

**(as amended and approved by a vote of 11 – 0, February 13, 2018)**

*Present: Committee Members: Terry McCabe (chair); Sandee Brackett, Rob Davidson, Richard Francis, Kenneth Frederic, John Freeman, Chuck Hanson, Paul Leeman III, Sara MacCorkle, J.W. Oliver, and Kristine Poland. Selectmen: Chad Hanna, Terry Lowd, Paul Yates. Town Administrator: Chris Hall, and Deputy Treasurer, Lisa Peters. Representing CLC Ambulance: Don Means. Representing Central Lincoln County Adult Education: Pamela Sperry. Representing the Bristol School Board: Interim Superintendent Jim Hodgkin, Business Manager Rick Kusturin, Principal Jennifer Ribeiro, Board Chair Dave Kolodin and school board member Bonnie Sablinsky. Representing Bristol Fire and Rescue: Chief Paul Leeman Jr., New Harbor First Assistant Chief Jared Pendleton and member Daniel MacWalters. Also present: Gordon Benner, Abby Ingraham, David Svens.*

Chair McCabe opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda included the presentation of budgets from the Bristol School Board, AOS 93 Adult Education, Central Lincoln County (CLC) Ambulance, and the Bristol Fire and Rescue Department.

Prior to hearing the different groups' budgets, chair McCabe called attention to the terms of reference of the Committee as set out in Warrant Article 3 from the 2013 Town Meeting.

A motion was made by Sara MacCorkle to accept the minutes from the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, seconded by Chuck Hanson and carried 11 – 0.

#### **Central Lincoln County Ambulance:**

Due to the fact that Bristol was one of the towns to originally sponsor the ambulance, it appears as a separate warrant article, even though it is a non-profit organization.

Don Means was representing CLC Ambulance due to the inability for the President, Warren Waltz to attend. He did hand out a letter from Warren Waltz

regarding the request. Means pointed out that the ambulance service was increasing the amount of the request to the town due to a loss in operating capital of over 85k in 2017. This loss was mainly due to a change in policy from Miles Hospital. The new amount would be \$16,231 versus the previous amount of \$15,200. In addition to the effect of the policy change, there were repairs that were necessary last year such as a new septic system and a new roof. These repairs severely depleted the capital reserve account. Some questions were asked of Mr. Means on specific numbers, for which he apologized for not having the data.

### **Central Lincoln County Adult Education:**

Pamela Sperry, the Director of Adult Education provided a letter outlining the financial request, the services the organization provides, and the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. She stated she would not be requesting a higher amount from the town, even though the state has reduced their funds. Sperry was just hired for the position last July and feels she needs to have more time in her position before requesting more funds. With the help of funds raised, Adult Education was able to help 2 people obtain their high school diploma from Bristol last year and is working with 3 this year.

### **Bristol School Committee:**

Chair of the Bristol Consolidated School Committee, Dave Kolodin introduced the Business Manager, Rick Kusturin and Interim Superintendent of Schools, Jim Hodgkin to speak about the budget.

Overall, this year's budget had an increase over the previous year of 1.82%. Mr. Hodgkins went over the line items in the budget, taking questions as they arose. Some items went down and some increased. Hodgkin addressed some issues regarding changes in reimbursement amounts from the state, which affected some of the line items in the Special Education department.

He spoke about the undesignated funds reported by the auditors at the end of the previous budget year. These funds amounted to a surplus of 10% versus the recommended 3%, prompting concern from some budget committee members. There were several factors that contributed to this overage, most of which could not have been foreseen. Some of the undesignated funds are to be used for a new parking lot as well as new signage and other items amounting to approximately 300k. \$225,000 will be carried over as offset in the new budget year, and any balance remaining after the parking lot project will be placed in a reserve fund for the eventual purchase of the solar power array.

In response to concerns raised by committee members, Hodgkin stated that usually a capital project such a new parking lot would be funded by a capital reserve account, however, the good fortune of a one-time surplus it appeared appropriate to the School Committee to use it for a one-time capital expense, thus

avoiding the need for borrowing. All agreed that the usual process is to plan ahead and contribute funds annually to a capital reserve for capital projects.

Lastly, it was stated that there are no current plans to build a new softball field.

### **Bristol Fire & Rescue:**

Chief Paul Leeman went over the budget, stating the various differences over prior years. He spoke about the many aspects of Bristol Fire & Rescue, one overall theme being the inability to exactly forecast how many calls they will have or how many personnel will be needed per call. Due to the nature of the work they do, it is impossible to give exact numbers for the various duties of the department.

Chief Leeman also discussed the role of the Samoset Fire Company, presenting its summary financials for 2017.

He went on to discuss the new, upgraded risk rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO), reflecting excellent evaluations of both the Department's equipment and training records. The lower the ISO rating number, the lower the rates available to residents for homeowner's insurance.

Leeman then discussed ways the department is striving to increase recruitment, one being offering a course at Lincoln Academy in May for basic fire fighters. There are currently 3 applicants being reviewed for firefighter positions.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding the cost of the proposed full time Fire Chief position. It was explained that subtracting the annual stipend now being received as well as the hourly call-out wage will help offset the proposed salary. Additional duties that would be taken on with the position include EMS Service Chief, EMS Director, Town Fire Warden, Forest Fire Warden as well as Compliance Officer. Another offset would be the elimination of cost to the town for annual safety compliance testing for town employees.

There was some question as to why the position was not advertised and it was stated by Chair of the Selectmen, Chad Hanna that MMA indicated it was not necessary. The reasoning being, if there is an available willing and qualified applicant already in place, it makes more sense to place that person in the position.

### **Vote on Non-Profits:**

#### **1. Bristol Library:**

A motion was made by member Hanson to approve and seconded by Leeman. Motion carried 11 – 0.

#### **2. Healthy Kids:**

A motion was made by Hanson to approve, seconded by Poland. Motion carried, 9 – 2.

**3. ElderCare:**

A motion to approve was made by Oliver, seconded by Hanson. Motion carried 10 – 0, 1 abstaining (Leeman).

**4. MidCoast Maine Community Action:**

A motion was made to approve by Oliver, seconded by MacCorkle. The motion passed by 9 votes to 1, 1 abstaining (Poland).

**5. New Hope for Women:**

A motion to approve was made by Hanson, seconded by Leeman. Motion carried, 10 – 0, 1 abstaining (Francis).

**6. Pemaquid Watershed Association:**

A motion was made to approve by Hanson, seconded by Francis. Motion carried 10 – 0, 1 abstaining (Brackett).

**7. Senior Spectrum:**

A motion was made to approve by Hanson, seconded by Oliver. Motion carried 11 – 0.

**8. Lifeflight:**

Hanson made a motion to add Lifeflight's request of \$1500, seconded by MacCorkle. Motion carried, 11 – 0.

**9. Lincoln County Television:**

A motion was made to approve by Frederic, seconded by Poland; motion carried 11 – 0.

**Central Lincoln County Ambulance:**

A motion was made to approve by Oliver, seconded by Freeman. Motion carried, 10 - 0, 1 abstention (Leeman).

**Central Lincoln County Adult Education:**

A motion was made to approve by Hanson, seconded by Oliver. Motion carried, 11 – 0.

**Bristol Consolidated School:**

A motion was made by Hanson to vote on all the school articles as one, seconded by Poland. Motion carried 11 – 0. A motion to approve the school budget in its entirety was then moved by Poland, seconded by Frederick. The motion carried, 11 – 0.

**Bristol Fire and Rescue:**

During lengthy discussion, members expressed interest in conditional wording for article 19, i.e. "conditional upon approval of article 18." A motion to recommend the budget conditional upon passage of Article 18 was proposed by Brackett, seconded by Freeman. After further discussion, Frederic called the question. However in response to a plea for a 'clean' vote, the proposer and seconder agreed to modify their motion to a straightforward recommendation, and this motion was voted on. The motion passed, 6 – 4 with one abstention (Leeman).

Before adjournment there was discussion of what direction non-profit groups should be given in the future. It was stressed that they should be

warned of non-support by the budget committee for funding if all requested information was not received by the budget meeting. Chair McCabe indicated that the Committee would return to this matter.

A motion was made by Davidson to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m., seconded by Francis. The motion carried 11 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Peters  
02/13/2018