

Frederick A. Lynk, Chair
Peter J. Kahn, Vice Chair
Peter L. Griswold, Secretary
Michael F. Collins
Michele A. Tourangeau



Ogunquit Budget Review Committee
14 February 2023
9:00 AM – Meeting
Dunaway Community Center
23 School Street, Ogunquit, Maine

Minutes

9:00 AM MEETING

1.0 WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Roll Call – all five BRC Members were present along with the Assistant Town Manager/Treasurer, Fire Chief and Harbormaster.
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 2.1 Approved the 7 February 2023 Minutes – 5/0 (Tourangeau / Collins)

3.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 3.1 **None**

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Ogunquit Memorial Library – \$15,000

Ed Peters, Treasurer of the OML, presented a full explanation of the Library's financial need for \$15,000: specifically, a) \$5,000 each for expanded public programs; b) pending repairs of the 125-year-old building (pointing the back wall and remediating the moisture in the basement); and c) increased salaries to help defray the impact of inflation. David Weare, the Library Director, has done a great job modernizing the Library's operations while completing major renovations of the building (new windows, roof, pointing and HVAC). The OML's operating budget is \$125K, and its endowment portfolio is doing well.

- 4.2 The Chair set the remaining Agenda to take a straw vote for each Department's FY2024 Budget, starting with General Government – not including Revenues since the Select Board will not discuss changing Town fees until this evening's meeting, with formal votes scheduled for February 28th. The Chair opened the meeting to public comments.

Barbara Ferraro – she asked why the Town should use the "rainy-day fund" (Undesignated Fund) to balance the Budget versus cutting expenses. She also questioned why the Mental Health benefit program, along with the current \$250 annual wellness allowance, should be provided given the salary increases during FY2023. She felt that if the rainy-day fund has excess liquidity, perhaps taxes should be reduced.

General Government – \$1,617,175 (up 16.7%)

Kahn suggested that this budget should be reduced to eliminate the use of the Undesignated Fund. He suggested eliminating the Mental Health proposed benefit (\$10K) along with providing employees with funds for minor equipment and tools (\$4K), the financial software module (\$2K), and the Tax Reminder Postcards (\$3.2K – printing and stamps). He also

suggested that the Clerk's "benefit pay" should be covered by the Reserve Fund created for this expense.

Motion to eliminate the Mental Health Benefit failed: Straw Vote 2 – 3 (Griswold / Kahn)

Motion to cut Minor Equipment & Tools in half passed: Straw Vote 3 – 2 (Kahn / Griswold)

Motion to eliminate the Tax Reminder Postcard passed: Straw Vote 4 – 1 (Kahn / Griswold)

Since the Town Manager was not able to participate in this meeting, we decided to postpone the discussion about using the Benefit Pay Reserve Fund.

4.3 **Fire Department - \$1,780,354 (up 5.7%)**

Public Comments – None

Answering Kahn's question about an extra \$45K in the budget, Chief Osgood explained why the Fire Department has its own rainy-day fund. Two examples are the overtime expenses needed to cover two long term disabilities and the required tests for 20 air-packs.

Motion to approve the Fire Department's Budget passed: 5 – 0 (Collins / Griswold)

4.4 **Lifeguard - \$313,750 (up 7.6%)**

Public Comments

Barbara Ferraro – She asked if the full time Lifeguard Captain position is necessary. The Fire Chief said the additional cost of \$15K for this position covers the recruiting and administrative responsibilities of the Captain.

Peter Kaufman – He also asked whether this Captain position is a full-time position. The Chief said that during the summer season the Captain will be on the beach supervising all the lifeguards. Off season, the Captain will be recruiting and handling administrative duties – budgets and reports. When asked about the existing jet ski's age, the Fire Chief said a new one is necessary, and the older one will be in Perkins Cove to handle any emergencies there.

Griswold asked the Chief why the former CEO and a member of the architectural firm that designed the Main Beach bathhouse said during the 26 September 2019 Select Board meeting that a jet ski may not be garaged in the building. He said the application for a mixed use building was incorrect. It is a commercial building. Therefore, in his opinion the jet ski may be garaged indoors according to the applicable fire code.

Motion to approve the Lifeguard's Budget passed: 5 – 0 (Collins / Tourangeau)

4.5 **Harbormaster - \$174,405 (up 1.3%)**

Public Comments – None

Erin Gott wanted to keep his budget flat given the Bridge's future expenses.

Motion to approve the Harbormaster's Budget passed: 5 – 0 (Collins / Tourangeau)

5.0 **OTHER BUSINESS**

The BRC Members agreed to cover the following departments during the February 21st meeting: Conservation Commission, Police, Visitor Services, Public Works, Facilities, Utilities, Insurance, and Revenues. The February 28th meeting has been cancelled. Future meetings will take place on March 7th, and if necessary on March 14th, the day before the deadline to provide the Select Board with the BRC's votes and recommendations.

6.0 **ADJOURN**

At 10:37 a motion was made – 5/0 (Griswold / Tourangeau)