

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



Ogunquit Budget Review Committee
7 March 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 Town Manager and the Assistant Town Manager/Treasurer.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance was said.

2.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2.1 **None**

3.0 NEW BUSINESS

*3.1 Presentation by **Bike-Pedestrian Committee**

Bruce Byorkman said that the \$3K will cover a fellow member's travel expenses to attend a national bike association meeting in Washington, D.C. The Committee wants to obtain more best practices concerning "micro mobility" given the rise of electric scooters and skateboards. The objective is to make Ogunquit a bike friendly town with lower levels of carbon emissions.

Public Comment

Weston Elliott suggested that the Committee could spend the \$3K on bike racks, helmets and lights as opposed to a trip to Washington.

Committee Comments

Kahn asked when the member would be going to the convention. Bruce responded that they will be going soon and that the budget request currently under review would be to attend the convention again next year.

Tourangeau said that electric scooters and skateboards can go up to 20 MPH. Without regulations and enforcement, we should begin to adopt rules of the road. Obtaining best practices during the Washington meeting might be useful. These electric scooters are very useful for workers in Town.

The Town Manager said that the Committee members should make the decision on how best to use its budget. Nevertheless, several BRC members and one member of the public made strong suggestions to the contrary.

Griswold asked the Town Manager about the traffic study of Ogunquit's town center. He said that this study is ongoing throughout Maine concerning the safety of pedestrians and bikes. There may be an available matching grant for \$25K.

*3.2 The BRC Members took straw votes for the budget request of the following:

1) **General Assistance** - \$2,000 – Vote = 5 - 0

2) **YCCA** - \$500 – Vote = 5 – 0

Public Comment

Kirsten Ross asked who is responsible for placing American flags on veterans' tomb stones? The Town Manager said Public Works handles this. She also asked whether Ogunquit supports the Ocean View Cemetery in Wells since many former residents are buried there. The Town Manager said no because each town covers the expense of their own cemeteries. Finally, she asked about the \$35K conservation land fund that covers re-vegetation of streams and estuaries. The Town Manager said that Acorn Engineering is wrapping up a ten-year study started in 2013. Acorn is notifying property owners about any environmental issues before this study is published during the next few months.

3) **Historic Society of Wells & Ogunquit** - \$10,000 – Vote = 5 – 0

4) **Ogunquit Memorial Library**- \$15,000 – Vote = 5 – 0

5) **Senior Center** – \$10,000 – Vote = 4 – 0

Peter Kahn recused himself since he is a member of the Center's Board & is Treasurer

6) **Parks & Recreation** - \$33,000 – Vote = 5 – 0

7) **Historic Museum** - \$34,675 – Vote = 5 – 0

8) **Bike & Pedestrian** - \$3,000 – Vote = 5 – 0

9) **Age Friendly** – \$500 – Vote = 5 - 0

The Town Manager said he will try to revitalize the Age Friendly Committee since there are so many seniors in Ogunquit. Currently, Age Friendly has no members. However, if there are no new member applications, the budget will be transferred to the Undesignated Fund.

10) **Conservation Commission** - \$40,100 – Vote = 5 – 0

11) **Shellfish** - \$12,050 -- Vote 5 – 0

12) **Marginal Way Committee** - \$39,420 – Vote = 4 – 0

Peter Griswold recused himself since his wife is the Chair of this Committee.

13) **Piping Plovers** - \$5,983 – Vote = 5 – 0

14) **Sustainability Committee** - \$30,000 – Vote = 5 – 0

15) **Ogunquit Performing Arts** - \$9,500 – Vote = 5 – 0

16) **Compensated Absences** - \$75,000 – Vote = 5 – 0

The Town Manager explained that when a person retires, they are eligible to receive compensation for absences not taken. This request will bring up the reserve to a more appropriate level.

17) **Unemployment** - \$5,000 – Vote = 5 – 0

18) **Eco Maine** - \$15,000 – Vote = 5 – 0

19) **Salary & Contract Adjustments** - \$30,000 – Vote = 5 – 0

20) **Reserve for Building Improvements** - \$20,000 – Vote = 5 – 0

This amount will be set aside for the Historic Museum's restoration managed by Public Works.

*3.3 **BRC's Draft Letter to the Select Board**

The Chair described the proposed outline of the BRC's letter including descriptions of our analysis process since last August, the joint workshop with the Select Board and our straw votes covering each item in the FY2024 Budget. We will also make recommendations to fulfill our objective to assist the Select Board with budgets and financial planning. Lynk and Griswold will prepare a rough draft for the BRC Members before the end of this week.

The Agenda for the BRC meeting on March 14th will include three major topics: our review of the proposed revenues and use of the Undesignated Fund, the initial Binding Votes on the FY2024 Budget, and the final review and approval of the BRC letter to the Select Board.

5.0 **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

6.0 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Weston Elliott expressed concern regarding the projected tax assessment document.

BRC MEMEBER COMMENTS

Collins followed up discussing his concern regarding the projected tax assessment draft document regarding accuracy and its distribution before being reviewed by the full BRC membership.

7.0 **ADJOURN**

 At 10:38 a motion was made: 5 - 0 (Kahn/Collins)