

**Town of Haverhill Budget Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 30, 2020**

**Draft Subject to Review by the Committee**

**Committee Members Present:** Chair David Robinson, Sandi Pierce, Don Hammond, John Hobbs, Wayne Fortier, Robert Roudenbush, Chris Luurtsema

**Members of the Public Present:** Karen Woods, Christina Hebert, Police Chief Brandon Alling, Lorie Aldrich, Andrea Brissette, Rita Miller, Laurel Berwick, Joe Kirkpatrick

**Selectboard Members Present:** Chair Darwin Clogston, Matt Bjelobrk, Tom Friel

**Town Employees Present:**

**Town Manager:** Brigitte Codling

**Financial Officer:** Jennifer Boucher

**The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM**

**Business:** Robert told the Police Department that they were thankful for their service.

**Police Department:** The budget increase is only 1.68% due to things outside the Departments control, such as Healthcare and other insurance. They get \$8,000 out of overtime. Almost \$11,000 out of supplies. There are trainings coming up that caused an increase in budget. Chief Alling continued to explain the logistics of what is in the budget such as arrests, stops, and violations. The Committee is wondering about the cruiser that they are looking into purchasing. Part of the money is going to a lease that is still out on one of the cruisers. The rest of the money is going to the purchase of a new cruiser. This purchase would happen because of the increase in officers and where an extra cruiser is needed for the officers to be able to fulfill all of their duties. The figure in the budget for the new cruiser is the first payment on a 3-year lease. The Committee brought up some thoughts on questions the Police Chief might run into when bringing up the idea of a new cruiser to the Town during Town Meeting. There was discussion on creating a warrant article for the purchase of a new cruiser. To pass, this warrant article would need a two thirds ballot vote. This Committee would advise whether or not they support the creation of this warrant article.

**Motion 1:** Robert makes a motion to accept the police department budget as modified with the \$18,450 for the cruiser lease payment. Sandi seconded the motion. There was further discussion on what different figure titles meant. The motion was put to a vote and it passed unanimously.

**Motion 2:** Robert made a motion that the Committee recommend to the Selectboard a motion to add the new cruiser as a warrant article to the Town Report. Wayne seconded the motion. The motion was withdrawn

**Motion 3:** Robert made a motion for a warrant article be placed before the Selectboard and the Town for the appropriate amount of money for the purchase price with interest for a new cruiser. Wayne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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**The Kennel:** The ACO from the kennel explained that this was her first Budget meeting, and then continued to break down the statistics of what she had accomplished this year that can be seen in the budget. The revenue from fines goes to the Town.

**Motion 4:** John made a motion to accept the animal control officer budget as proposed. David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Library:** They asked for \$1,800 more than the \$13,200 they had been receiving. The Town Manager requested a 2% increase. They have tried to get grants in the past but they have not been successful. There have been attempts to coordinate all the libraries in the Town and provided all libraries with access to ancestry.com. There are other sources of income for the Library and the Committee was provided with an outline of these sources and their comparisons to libraries in other towns. However, it was stated that Haverhill does better than the state average.

**Motion 5:** Robert made a motion that the Committee accept Haverhill Corner Library's request of \$15,000. Sandi seconded the motion. There was further discussion on this subject. TM Codling explained that they had gone over budget on a lot of things, so she did not agree with their budget request. This is because she said things could be changed in the budget so that this didn't happen again. There was a quest about the \$105,000. That is a reserve account stored in a bank. It is in several different reserves used for different situations. Freda Miller (Treasurer) stated that they were using 2017 numbers because she was granted a pass on last year's report due to unforeseen circumstances. She states that these numbers seemed low and that was why. The Haverhill Corner Library has to come up with 70% of their budget outside of what the Town gives them and fundraising isn't bringing in what they need it to. The motion was put to a vote and it passed unanimously.

**Motion 6:** Sandi made a motion to accept Paten Library's proposed budget of \$15,434. David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Motion 7:** Robert moved that they accept the Town Manager's proposed amount for the Woodsville Library. Don seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Warrant Articles:**

**Cottage Hospital:** This is a non-profit entity. Karen Woods (Administrative Director of the hospital) spoke to the statistics of the hospital and what it provides for the Town. They are asking to be able to address the Town for 13% of what they spent on charity care to be given back to them. It would be just under \$18,000 dollars. They have not asked for this in previous years, but the cost to run this type of organization is rising and to be able to continue to provide these services they are making this request this year. TM Codling said she will let the people decide. Last year they made this request to Bath and Bath approved this 13%. This money goes to new equipment purchases.

**Motion 8:** Don made a motion to put a warrant article on the budget for Cottage Hospital \$17,890. Wayne seconded the motion and it passed with one abstention.

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**Court Appointed Special Advocates:** This is the same request as last year.

**Motion 9:** John made a motion to approve the recommend \$1000 warrant article. Robert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Ammonoosuc Community Health:** No discussion beforehand.

**Motion 10:** Robert made a motion that they accept the recommended warrant article for \$6000. Don seconded the motion. These \$6,000 dollars also goes to charity care. The motion was put to a vote and it passed unanimously.

**North Country Home health:** \$15000 for the last three year.

**Motion 11:** John made a motion that they recommend the \$15,000 for North Country Home Health. David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**RSVP Volunteer Center:**

**Motion 12:** Sandi made the motion that they recommend the \$1,000 for RSVP. Robert seconded the motion. This budget item has been approved the last two years, but that money has not been used. The past two years they have not actually made a request, but the Town Manager has continued to put it in. The Town went back this year and asked if they actually wanted to submit a request and they said yes. The motion was put to a vote and it passed unanimously.

**Horse Meadow Senior Center:**

**Motion 13:** John made a motion to recommend the \$24,000 as proposed by the Town Manager and requested by the agency. Robert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Visiting Nurse and Hospice:**

**Motion 14:** John made a motion to recommend the \$6,000 as requested and proposed. Robert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**White Mountain Mental Health:**

**Motion 15:** John made a motion to recommend the \$6,012 as requested and proposed. Robert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Tri County Community Action:** Robert is wondering why they were mentioned three times. This is because they are all different counties and branches. In the past they have requested \$4,000 and this year the Town Manager is only recommending \$2,000. As far as the Town is aware the people of Haverhill do use these resources.

**Tri County Community Action Energy Services:** Part of the above-mentioned group.

**Motion 16:** Robert made a motion to recommend the requested amount for \$4,000. Sandi seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**The Birch House:** Part of the above-mentioned group.

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**Motion 17:** Robert made a motion to recommend the \$2,234. Sandi seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Tri Country Community Homeless Outreach:** Apart of the above-mentioned group.

**Motion 18:** Robert made a motion to recommend the \$2,334. Sandi seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**The Bridge House:** In past years this line item has not been recommended. Haverhill is not a committee they directly support. They are looking for \$2,000. The Committee is wondering why they should do it this year. There is very limited shelter space in NH. At the Bridge house they have rooms specific to Veterans and they are the only shelter in the state that will accept sex offenders. They do have limitations on the latter, but they will take them. The next closest shelter that takes these offenders is in Boston. These conditions have been the same in the past years, but this is the first year that specifically Finance Office Boucher has communicated with them.

**Motion 19:** Wayne made a motion to recommend the Town Manager's amount of \$2,000. Robert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Good Shepard Pantry:**

**Motion 20:** Robert made a motion to recommend the asked amount of \$4,695. David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Court Street Art/Alumni Hall:**

**Motion 21:** Robert made a motion to recommend the proposed amount of \$8,500. Wayne seconded the motion and it tied with their tie breaker absent. So, the tie becomes a fail and they will not recommend.

Robert said that they should request someone from alumni hall to come to them to answer questions. They can make a motion again at a later date to reconsider this article.

**Motion 22:** Don made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sandi seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM**

*Minutes Provided by Alex Collins*