

Town of Colebrook
Board of Finance

Regular Meeting Minutes of February 29, 2024

Members Present

Duncan Wilber
Kathleen Q. Adams
Todd W. Hiller (departed at 6:30)
Thomas D. McKeon
Mark Masslon
Scott T. Norton

Members Absent

Others in Attendance

First Selectman Bradley N. Bremer
Selectman Ernest Marmer
Selectman Aden J. Ruwett
Karen Odell

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chairman Wilber.

1. First Selectman Bradley Bremer presented the 2024-2025 Board of Selectmen Budget to the Board:
 - a. First Selectman Bradley Bremer presented the Board of Selectmen's 2024-2025 proposed budget of \$2,266,642 that indicated an overall 5.6% decrease from the current year.
 - b. Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget categories reflected the following:

i. General Government	\$870,617	- 2.5%
ii. Public Safety	\$ 87,320	7.3%
iii. Highway	\$818,416	-12.7%
iv. Town Hall Expenditures	\$ 69,800	- 3.1%
v. Community Senior Center	\$ 52,996	- 2.9%
vi. Health	\$ 35,211	20.3%
vii. Miscellaneous	\$ 71,272	- 1.2%
viii. Refuse/Recycle	\$261,009	0.4%
 - c. Board member T. Hiller departed the meeting.
 - d. Fire Chief Sean Berry presented an in-depth analysis of the fire department budget and attempts by the department to mitigate costs. Chief Berry related the potential for future fiscal year budget request increases due to indications of upcoming Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations that will codify the current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommendations into federal, and subsequently, state regulations versus recommendations. The measures are likely to take effect in approximately 2.5 years.
 - e. Board members asked numerous questions about individual line items, no further action was taken awaiting the presentation of the upcoming budget segments so all budgets can be considered in the context of an appropriate mill rate for 2024-2025.
2. Update of the mill rate outlook and potential issues for the 2024-2025 budget indicated the Selectmen Budget request will decrease by 5.6%. Inter-government & State Aid is projected to increase by 5%. Total revenues will remain relatively flat without an

increase in the current mill rate. Total expenditures are forecast to decrease 2.1% with budget proposals from the Capital Committee and Region 7 pending.

3. Motion to approve the minutes of the February 29, 2024, regular meeting made by T. McKeon, seconded by K. Adams. Discussion on the motion included a request to amend the February 22 Minutes, paragraph 1b to read: *“[1]b. Current enrollment is 70 with 66 students in-house. In a 10-year forecast, 2024-2025 enrollment is projected at 63, a projected low of 60 in 2026-2027, and an increase to a projected high of 83 in 2032-2033. A reduction in special education outplacement expenses comes with the departure of one additional special education student from the elementary school system this past year, creating a budget expense reduction of \$90,000 in the special education outplacement budget.”* Approved unanimously with the change.

K. Adams moved to adjourn. Seconded by S. Norton. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott T. Norton
Secretary

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