

**Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Budget Workshop
Wednesday, February 8, 2023
Preston Town Hall - Lower Level**

Call to Order - Sandra Allyn-Gauthier called the meeting to order at 5:02 P.M.

1. Roll Call

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier

Jerry Grabarek

Ken Zachem

Also Present

Cindy Varricchio - Financial Director

Kimberly Lang - Recording Secretary

Members of the Public - 1

2. New Business - 2023-2024 Budget for:

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier shared that the format chosen is similar to ClearGov, which will allow departments to make the transition to the program easier. Each narrative included: Service Narrative, Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Major Accomplishments, Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Major Service Goals, and Any Additional Budget Information. Board members agreed that the length and format makes it easy to read without being overwhelming. The Board was reminded that all staff salaries would be dealt with separately and tonight was a review of the narratives and the supporting budget information.

a. Registrar of Voters (ROV)

It was determined that this department's budget was kept flat. However, the cost to implement early voting as approved by voters on November 8, 2022 has yet to be determined, therefore this budget will need to be revisited when that information becomes available.

b. Planning & Zoning

While reviewing the narrative, it was determined that the Zoning Enforcement Officer will need to be moved out of the Planning and Zoning budget to Contracted Services. It was also decided that PRA information should be listed under PRA, rather than Planning and Zoning. When reviewing the line items, it was explained that the increase in Staff Development is for training on both the IPS and the GIS programs as well as the additional training through conferences and workshops that are being offered.

c. Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

There was a brief discussion of the addition of Legal Services to the ZBA's budget. It was noted that legal services for all Boards and Commissions is done centrally, but Chairman Moulson's concerns would be considered when that line item is discussed. It was explained that the Program Supplies line has been added to cover the cost of mailing meeting packets and any correspondence that is required by the Board.

d. Inland/Wetlands

It was explained that the Program Supplies line has been added to this budget as well to cover the cost of mailing meeting packets and any correspondence that is required by the Commission.

e. Conservation & Agricultural Commission (CAC)

While reviewing the narrative the listing of the State Hospital Development was questioned; as well as the increase in the Amos Lake Association support. It was mentioned that there was a narrative from the Amos Lake Association explaining their request for \$5,000. Cindy Varricchio stated that she would share that with the Board via email.

The \$15,000 for matching Open Space funds was discussed and it was determined that at this point to remove this item. Once the budget is more solidified to possibly reinstate it, but in its own separate line not to exceed \$15,000.

f. Ethics Commission

This Commission has kept their budget flat.

g. Youth Services Advisory Board (YSAB)

There was a brief discussion in the YSAB's budget and the role a yearly \$14,000 grant plays in the budget.

h. Senior Affairs Committee

While reviewing the narrative, it was mentioned that Small City Grant should also be listed. As far as the operating budget, it was noted that the increases for electricity and heating oil for the Senior Center were necessary because of the steady increases seen in all utilities.

i. Preston Redevelopment Agency (PRA)

It was mentioned that the Legal Services will increase as the Town gets closer to conveyance.

j. Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA)

Sandra Allyn- Gauthier shared that this year's numbers are not yet available, however, by locking into a 3-year contract that states that the maximum increase should not exceed 5%. This budget has been calculated at the maximum increase and can be adjusted once the updated information has been received. By using the maximum increase it allows the budget process to move forward confidently.

It was asked if all the departments have turned in their budgets. It was stated only a few have not and that those that haven't requested extensions mostly due to where their meeting fell in the calendar.

3. Public Comment and Questions

Leigh Cremin, 10 Amos Road, stated that she was interested in the following: work force, single family homes, new societal models, getting people to ask questions, POCD, and various other topics. She is concerned with how it all works together and what Preston leaders are doing to make the best decisions for the Town.

4. Adjournment

Ken Zachem motioned to adjourn at 5:50 P.M.. Jerry Grabarek seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Lang

Recording Secretary

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Jim Keen
PRESTON TOWN CLERK