

Salisbury Budget Committee

Approved Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2022

A meeting of the Salisbury Budget Committee was held on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Academy Hall.

Jason Hood, Chairman (2024)	Present	Marcia Murphy, Vice Chair (2023)	Present
David Kelly (2024)	Present	Bill MacDuffie, Sr. (2022)	Present
David Merwin (2022)	Present	David Croft (2024)	Present
Jennifer Hoyt (2023)	Present	Velvet Sweeney (2023)	Present
Brett Walker, Selectman (2022)	Present	Jeff Blanchard (2022)	Present
April Rollins, Town Administrator	Present	Jennifer King, Recording Secretary	Present

Public Attendees: Bill McDuffie Jr.

Attending Via Zoom: Gayle Landry

Chair Hood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Approve Minutes

Chair Hood **motioned** to accept the draft meeting minutes of December 13, 2021 as amended. David Kelley **seconded** the motion which passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS

Final Review of 2022 Budget Proposals

Brett Walker said that the Selectmen will be looking to increase the elderly tax exemption. This year is the reassessment year, so taxes will likely increase, rendering the current amount insufficient. David Croft asked if there is a Veteran's exemption. Brett Walker confirmed that it is a \$500 credit as opposed to the exemption which is an exclusion from the value of the property. Discussion occurred regarding expectations of the outcome of the reassessment. Brett Walker said that overall they would expect 1/3 of properties to increase, 1/3 to decrease and 1/3 to stay the same.

Selectmen's Report

Brett Walker reported that delivery on the compactor has been delayed. He discovered that he had been misinformed by the company they were purchasing through regarding the delivery date as well as the state of their company. His salesperson stopped communicating with him altogether, so he managed to get in touch with the owner of Global Trash Solutions, Peter Spanos. Mr. Spanos called into the last Selectmen's meeting to give them an explanation. The company has been having financial problems, which is part of the reason for the delay. They fell behind with their vendor who in turn put their account on hold. They have secured funding from the SBA and gave the Selectmen a revised delivery date of April.

David Merwin questioned why they weren't asking for their money back and asked about the terms of the contract. Brett Walker explained that although they could pursue the option of getting a refund, they would be starting the process over again and it would likely be significantly more expensive and they would be possibly looking at delivery in the fall instead of in the spring. The terms of the initial agreement was full payment up front to ensure a place in the production line. They decided to stick with this contractor and will be checking every two weeks between now and delivery in April to ensure the project remains on this revised schedule. He did express his dissatisfaction with the lack of communication and did mention to the manufacturer that they could have criminal legal recourse against them in terms of fraud. David Croft said that appreciates the work the Selectmen put into this and the way they've handled this problem.

David Merwin asked for an update regarding the installation of new lines on North Road. TDS had a meeting and they have agreed to the line installation project and will be writing up a contract. They are working on an agreement with Consolidated Communication to share the poles, and they just need to get the approval from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for the boundaries of the lot change.

Marcia Murphy asked when the dates were to file to run for elected town positions. Brett Walker said that it is from January 19-28th. She noted that David Merwin, Bill McDuffie Sr. and Jeff Blanchard's seats were the ones opening up for this election.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting will be held on February 7, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., with the public hearing scheduled for 7 p.m.

Chair Hood **motioned** to adjourn the meeting. David Kelly **seconded** the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer King, Recording Secretary