

Salisbury Budget Committee

Approved Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2022

A meeting of the Salisbury Budget Committee was held on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 6:30 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	Absent

Public Attendees: Bill McDuffie Jr., Tricia Thompson, Dora & Dave Rapalyea and Sharon MacDuffie.

Attending Via Zoom: Gayle Landry and David Croft

Chair Hood called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Draft Minutes

Chair Hood **motioned** to approve the draft meeting minutes of January 10, 2022 as drafted.

David Kelley **seconded** the motion which passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS

Recommend Warrant Articles

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Four Hundred Dollars (\$7,400) to be added to the **Reassessment Capital Reserve Fund**, established in 1976. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.048 per thousand.) Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Dave Kelley seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) be added to the **Buildings and Grounds Capital Reserve Fund**, established in 1992. The Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. (Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.016 per thousand.) Chair Hood made a

motion to recommend this article and Brett Walker seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the **Transfer Station/Recycling Capital Reserve Fund** established in 2002 and repurposed in 2020. (Selectmen and ? recommend this article). (Estimated Tax Impact \$.065 per thousand.) Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Bill MacDuffie Sr. seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$49,000) to be added to the **Emergency Services/Fire Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** established in 1994 and combined in 2019. (Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.319 per thousand.) Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Dave Kelley seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) to be placed in the **Forest Fire Expendable Trust Fund** established in 2011. (The Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.003 per thousand.) Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Bill MacDuffie Sr. seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$27,700) to be added to the **Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund**, established in 1974. (Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.180 per thousand.) Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Dave Merwin seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to be added to the **Recreation Capital Reserve Fund**, established in 1987. (Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.006 per thousand.) Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Dave Kelley seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) to be placed in the **Cistern & Dry Hydrant Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust Fund**, established in 2016 and renamed in 2017. (Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.016 per thousand.) Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Brett Walker seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to be added to the **Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund** established in 1996. (The Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.006 per thousand.) Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Dave Kelley seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800) to be deposited into the **Cemetery Maintenance and Operation Trust Fund**. Said funds to come

from the 12/31/21 unassigned fund balance and not from taxation. Funds are the proceeds of the sale of four (4) rights of interment in 2021. (Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation.) Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Dave Merwin seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-Seven Hundred Dollars (\$8,700) to be placed in the **Air Pack Equipment & Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund** established in 2016. (The Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.056 per thousand.) Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Brett Walker seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400) to be placed in the **Defibrillator & Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund**, established in 2016. The Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation. (Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$.015 per thousand.) Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Dave Kelley seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

To see if the Town will vote to establish an **Old Home Days Revolving Fund** pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of funding Old Home Day activities. All revenues received through Old Home Day participation fees or donations will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town's general fund balance, with Two Hundred and Ninety-Six Dollars (\$296) to come from the unassigned fund balance from the proceeds collected during 2021 Old Home Day activities. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. (Majority voted required.) (Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation.) Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Dave Kelley seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Three Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand and Eighty-Seven Dollars (**\$1,382,087**) which represents the operating budget recommended by the Budget Committee. This sum does not include the amounts appropriated in special or individual warrant articles in this warrant. (Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation.) (Estimated Tax Impact \$9.006 per thousand.) Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Dave Merwin seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Are you in favor of modifying the amounts for the **Elderly Exemption** from property tax in the Town of Salisbury, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 74 years, \$50,000 (instead of \$40,000); for a person 75 years of age up to 79 years, \$75,000 (instead of \$60,000); for a person 80 years of age or older, \$100,000 (instead of \$80,000). To qualify, the person must have been a NH resident for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer, if single, must have a net income of not more than \$40,000; or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$45,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$75,000 excluding the value of the person's residence. Upon adoption, this elderly exemption modification shall be effective April 1, 2022. (Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation.)

Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Dave Kelley seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Shall the Town of Salisbury vote, pursuant to RSA 35:9-a, II to authorize the **Trustees of the Trust Funds**, without further action of the town meeting, to charge any expenses incurred for professional banking or brokerage assistance for capital reserve funds in their custody as authorized in RSA Chapter 35, against the capital reserve funds involved, such authority to remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of the town meeting, which said vote to rescind such authority shall not occur within 5 years of the adoption of this article? (Majority vote required.) (Selectmen and ? recommend this appropriation.) Chair Hood made a motion to recommend this article and Brett Walker seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Final Review of 2022 Budget Proposals – Chair Hood opened the Public Hearing at 7 p.m. Dora Rapalyea asked why there were not more department heads present. John Herbert replied they meet with the Selectmen throughout the budget process to answer questions about their proposed budgets when they are presented. Dora stated she feels they should all be at tonight's public hearing. Tricia Thompson asked why the Town has not conducted a study to see if services could be offered by another municipality or the sheriff's office because she feels the increase is not enough. Brett Walker replied anyone in Town, at Town meeting could propose more money to support 40 hours of policing a week. Walter Scott did last year in suggesting the transfer station be open on Wednesdays and the motion passed. Brett Walker stated the proposed police budget would be around six figures to have a single officer for forty hours a week. Tricia Thompson asked if Brett was being smart and Brett replied no. Dave Croft stated having the agreement with the State Police is a deal or else the Town would be paying for officers, insurance, cruisers, ammunition, training, etc. Tricia Thompson stated that the state police were inadequate because their response time was not fast enough and the town should put its police coverage out to bid because she feels the town is paying the state police too much. David Croft noted they do not have the resources at the county level to provide detail work and he supported the current increase. Brett Walker noted the Town would also be paying for every hour of police service and 9-1-1 calls, not just a detail with another municipality. Brett Walker stated the citizens of Salisbury support the state police and have shown no interest in exploring other police departments. Brett Walker stated he agrees that eight hours is not enough but we are asking for 8 hours because he feels that the town will support that increase and that Town Meeting will not approve more because it is not the political will of this town to have a police department. Tricia Thompson reiterated the increase is a band aid and the Town needs a study or to try and negotiate a lower rate with the State Police. Dave Merwin noted that the Town's part-time police department was ineffective in the past. Brett Walker replied if a lower rate was accepted and offered to a trooper, the detail shifts may not get filled. Dave Croft added the rate is not high, it is set by the union to include retirement, etc. Chairman Hood closed the public hearing at 7:25 p.m. Chairman Hood made a motion to approve the total proposed 2022 budget at \$1,495,883 dollars. Brett Walker seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectmen's Report – Brett Walker reported that the SBA loan for compactor has been secured and the Town is still on schedule to have the compactor by April 1st.

Signature of the MS-737 – Those present signed the MS-737.

OTHER BUSINESS – None at this time.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Hood **motioned** to adjourn the meeting. David Kelly **seconded** the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by April Rollins, Town Administrator