



TOWN OF SALISBURY

APPROVED MINUTES Budget Committee Business Meeting Meetings are in person or Zoom Monday, April 12, 2021 7:00 PM – Academy Hall

Jason Hood, Chairman (2024)	Present	Marcia Murphy, Vice Chair (2023)	Present
David Kelly (2024)	Absent	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	Vacant Position (2022)	
April Rollins, Town Administrator	Present	Wendy Pavnick, Minutes	Present

Zoom Meeting Attendees: Gayle Landry, Mary Heath

Brett Walker, Ex-Officio Selectman, swore Jason Hood in the position of Chairman at 6:59pm.

Chairman Jason Hood opened the meeting at 7:02pm.

Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson:

Dave Merwin made the motion to nominate Jason Hood as Chairperson, Marcia Murphy seconded, all in favor. Brett Walker nominated Marcia Murphy, as Vice Chairperson, Jason Hood seconded, all in favor.

Review / Accept draft Minutes of February 8, 2021: The meeting minutes of February 8, 2021 were reviewed. David Croft made the motion to **accept** the minutes as presented David Merwin seconded. The **motion passed** all in favor.

Opening for one position, due to Sandy Miller resigning, The empty position is advertised on the town website. The committee will consider letters of consideration until the position is filled. There were several people who ran, from the previous election, and we encourage you to send a letter of interest to the committee.

Recommendations for the 2022 Budget:

Bill MacDuffie suggested that the committee should start earlier to get the budget done quicker, Chairman Hood agreed with this. There was the question of having two meetings a month or starting earlier to get the items in. Selectman Walker suggested starting a month earlier. He states that the warrant article for the broad band was very late, and was trying to get in under the wire. Selectman Walker suggests starting in August or mid-September, if we need more meetings we can always add them at a later time. Chairman Hood states that there was a lot to consider under the wire.

Dave Merwin noted that a lot of people in town are against the trash compactor, however he believes they are not educated about the compactor, he questions if the Selectman can somehow notify people. Jen Hoyt asked if we could make a poster at the post office or at Academy Road or on Facebook. Selectman Walker states that it is possible to maybe post the information on Facebook without the minutes. David Croft suggested that we ask that a notice be placed in the town paper. Jen Hoyt suggested one of the Selectmen be available at the transfer station to answer questions and educate people about the importance of the Compactor, Selectman Walker states that he could do that or maybe write something up and put it on Facebook. David Merwin states that he is concerned because if a small number of voters show up to vote on the compactor then it could be voted down. The cost of the compactor has no impact on taxes in town, the money would come from the town and we would pay it back over a few years. Chairman Hood asks if there is anything that about the transfer station qualifies for improvements, Selectman Walker states that there is nothing that qualifies for improvements.

Murphy asks if we are going to have a clear concise informative page written about Warrant Articles that will be voted on for the town meeting. Selectman Walker states that this could be done.

Mr. MacDuffie asks if we can get another table so we are sitting on the same side of the table. Chairman Hood also questions this. April said that she could probably make that happen.

Selectmen's Report

Selectman Walker gave an update on the \$143,000 expected from the American Rescue Plan, it does allow for expansion of broadband for North Road. There are some challenges because the money is coming in two pieces. Roughly \$72,000 this year and then \$71,000 next year, he questions if the town can work with TDS: That we can work with them about paying them when we get the last check, He also questions if we could borrow \$52,000 and pay off the note when we get the final payment. The good news is that we have the financing for broadband, but still questions when we will be able to make it happen, and where we can get the final \$52,000. We will not get an update from treasury until May 11, which means the town people we will need to accept the warrant in good faith that we will get the money. David Croft asks if there is any stipulation of when the money can be spent. Selectman Walker states that the town has until 12/2024 to use the American Rescue Plan money, but it is earmarked for broadband expansion. Which is good news. Chairman Hood questions how the selectman is going to amend the warrant article: we need 57,000 to finish the installation of broadband. IF the warrant article passes but we find out that we can not pay off the note with the money, then the Selectmen

asks that we stop the project because we can not get the money. Marcia Murphy asks has there ever been a situation when a Warrant is passed but the funds are not available so the Warrant is essentially canceled by the Selectman, yes this has occurred in the past. Need treasury to tell us the rules which will not occur until May 11th.

Other Business

Marcia Murphy suggests that the board send a card to Sandy Miller thanking her for all the years she spent on the Budget Committee, All of the committee supported this.

Next Meeting – Monday, September 13, 2021: Questioned if we need to meet sooner to discuss the budget for the following meeting. David Croft questions the process of the Budget Committee: do we get a request from each town department? Chairman Hood states that each department will present to the selectman first, then the following Monday the BC meets to discuss what was presented and approved by the Selectman. The Selectmen Committee meets and discusses the budget in manageable chunks. Selectman Walker states that we could accelerate the process by looking at the early items that are not big and do not move much, we could cover the smaller items that do not change year to year, so need to put them on the agenda earlier to discuss smaller items and approve them sooner. We can highlight items to move to an earlier meeting. Mr. MacDuffie asks if it is possible to have a meeting in January to discuss the budget earlier, Chairman Hood states that that could be a possibility.

Adjourn: Chairman Hood motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:37pm first motion to accept adjournment made by David Merwin, David Croft second, all in favor.

Submitted by Wendy Pavnick, Recording Secretary