

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
TOWN OF RYEGATE
PO BOX 332
RYEGATE, VERMONT 05042

SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
January 15, 2024
Town Office & Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Andrew Smith. Other members present: Regina Hazel and Darryl Perkins. Budget Committee members present: Greg Gandin, Richard Colby, Marsha and Fremont Nelson, David Punt and Tyler Pokines. Also present: Cheryl Slayton, Patricia Crocker, Nelson Elder, Greg Murray, William Elder, Carl Bayer, and Jeffrey Haslett. Zoom: None

The Chairman thanked the Budget Committee members for attending. He reviewed the role of the budget committee and that the ultimate responsibility for a proposed budget lies with the Select Board.

Representing the Fire Department Chief Greg Murray presented their budget requests as members followed along on the worksheet.

The Road Foreman, Nelson Elder presented the Highway Dept.'s budget as members followed along. Increasing summer and winter labor rates by 15% was discussed. Tyler Pokines moved to approve a 15% increase of the line item for summer and winter labor. David Punt seconded the motion and it carried.

The Committee reviewed and revised the Budget worksheet that was presented by the Treasurer. Tyler Pokines moved to approve an increase in the Select Board's stipend from \$1000.00 to \$1200.00 each. Greg Gandin seconded the motion and it carried.

The Contribution section of the worksheet was reviewed.

The S. Ryegate Library asked for a budget request of \$3000.00. The Board approve a contribution of \$200.00. The remaining funds will be distributed by the Select Board out of the Marion Hall Library account. Little River Health Care asked for an increase in their appropriation. Tyler Pokines moved to level fund LRHC appropriation. David Punt seconded the motion and it carried.

New requests included:

- (1) The Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley-\$500.00. The Board approved this appropriation.
- (2) The Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium requested \$1,159.00 to support the operation of the Museum, in exchange for free unlimited general admission to the Museum for all Ryegate residents. The Board decided that this request would be funded from the Nicole A. Hayne Fund administered by the Select Board.
- (3) The Ryegate Energy Committee requested \$1000.00 for the Window Dressers Program and \$150.00 for educational materials. The Board approved these requests to be funded by the Mini MERP grant administered by the Select Board.

After discussion Tyler Pokines made a motion to instruct the Select Board to create a Revenue line item and transfer \$41,000.00 from the General Fund to try to stabilize the tax rate. Rick Colby seconded the motion and it carried. The Chairman asked if all were in favor of the proposed budget, it carried by a voice vote.

The Chairman asked if there were any further questions. David Punt asked about The Ticklenaked Dam Fund? What can be done to move that money to the General Fund. Andy stated that would have to be brought before the Town at Town Meeting.

There being no further business. Darryl moved to adjourn at 10:00 PM. Tyler Pokines seconded the motion and it carried.

_____ Elizabeth Page, Clerk for the Board