

**TOWN OF RYE BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
2023 TOWN BUDGET
Tuesday, January 17, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Rye Town Hall**

Committee Present: *Chair Scott Marion, Vice-Chair Jeff Ross, Jaci Grote, Dania Seiglie, Suzanne Barton, Dania Seiglie, School Board Rep Matt Curtin, Rye Water District Rep Ralph Hickson, and Rye Beach District Rep Shawn Crapo*

Others Present on behalf of the Town: Town Administrator Matt Scruton, and Finance Director/Asst. Town Administrator Becky Bergeron

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marion called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 8, 2022

Motion by Jaci Grote to approve the minutes of December 8, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Jeff Ross. All in favor.

- December 19, 2022

Motion by Jeff Ross to approve the minutes of December 19, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Matt Curtin. All in favor.

III. WORK SESSION

a. Warrant Articles

The Budget Committee reviewed the warrant article regarding the proposed operating budget for 2023, which was revised to reflect the increase to the COLA for nonunion town employees.

ARTICLE A. Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling twelve million, nine hundred sixty-five thousand, nine hundred

four and 00/100 dollars (\$12,965,904.00)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be eleven million, six hundred fifty-one thousand, eight hundred eighty-five and 00/100 dollars (\$11,651,885.00) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required.)

NOTE: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations in any other warrant articles.

Motion by Ralph Hickson to recommend Article A. Seconded by Jeff Ross. Vote: 8-0

IV. PUBLIC HEARING – 2023 TOWN BUDGET

The purpose of the Hearing is to consider the proposed Town Operating Budget for 2023 and Warrant Articles.

Chair Marion suspended the budget work session at 6:40 p.m. and opened the public hearing for the 2023 Town Budget.

Dominique Winebaum, 52 Cable Road, noted that she sent a letter to the budget committee members. She asked if the committee has received any answers to her questions.

Member Grote noted that the Finance Director has put together answers that pertain to the budget.

Finance Director Bergeron reviewed the answers to Mrs. Winebaum's questions pertaining to finance outlined in her letter.

Mrs. Winebaum spoke in regards to including a line item for updating the Rye Code Book in the Town's operating budget. She also spoke in regards to the master plan update and buildout analysis, which is included in the 2023 budget.

It was noted by Finance Director Bergeron that updates to the Rye Code is included in the budget under general government. There is an estimate for 2023 updates that will go to codification after passage in March.

Note: *Member Ross left the meeting at 6:57 p.m.*

Mrs. Winebaum pointed out that the Rye Code Book was not updated until September of 2022. It was not updated in March 2021 or March 2022 because it was not budgeted. She wants to be sure that in following years the Rye Code Book will be updated accordingly.

Steven Borne, 431 Wallis Road, expressed his concerns about the budget not being made available to the public for review before the public hearing. He asked about the new positions that are included in the 2023 proposed budget.

Finance Director Bergeron noted the new positions include a deputy fire chief, one per diem firefighter, part-time public works administrative assistant, fulltime DPW personnel, and a fulltime position for the Recreation Department.

It was noted by Chair Marion that some of the positions don't start until the third or fourth quarter.

Joseph Cummins, 990 Washington Road, asked the difference between this public hearing and the one that was recently held for the Town's operating budget.

Chair Marion explained that the Budget Committee had to revote on the total budget, as it was revised. This requires another public hearing.

Other questions from Mr. Cummins were addressed by members of the Budget Committee.

There was some discussion regarding the role of the Budget Committee and its process.

At 7:27 p.m., Shawn Crapo moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Jaci Grote. All in favor.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jaci Grote to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. Seconded by Shawn Crapo. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger