

**TOWN OF RYE BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING**

To consider the 2023 Proposed Budgets:

Rye Beach Village District

Jenness Beach Precinct

Rye Water District

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Committee Present: *Chair Scott Marion, Vice-Chair Jeffrey Ross, Jaci Grote (via Zoom), Suzanne Barton, Doug Abrams, Dania Seiglie (via Zoom), Rye Water District Rep Ralph Hickson, Rye Beach District Rep Shawn Crapo, Jenness Beach District Representative Randy Crapo and Selectmen's Rep Tom King*

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Marion called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. WORK SESSION

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Work Session 12/8/22: Town Budget

The following correction was noted:

- Page 6, 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence should read: **The criterion doesn't include the National Guard, reserves, or active duty.**

Motion by Shawn Crapo to approve the minutes of December 8, 2022 as amended.

Seconded by Doug Abrams. Vote: 8-0-2 Abstained: Randy Crapo and Doug Abrams

2. Work Session 12/19/22: Town Budget

Motion by Shawn Crapo to approve the minutes of December 19, 2022 as written.

Seconded by Doug Abrams. Vote: 9-0-1 Abstained: Randy Crapo

3. Work Session 1/3/23: School Budget

Motion by Ralph Hickson to approve the minutes of January 3, 2023 as written. Seconded by Shawn Crapo. Vote: 8-0-2 Abstained: Doug Abrams and Randy Crapo

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

To consider the proposed 2023 Budgets of:

A. Rye Beach Village District

Frank Drake, Representing Rye Beach Village District, presented the Budget Committee with the Rye Beach Village District proposed budget for 2023, along with a proposed warrant article for the capital reserve fund in the amount of \$30,000. The capital reserve fund will be funded from the unassigned fund balance, which is currently \$169,000. The reserve fund was set up at the Rye Beach Village District Meeting in 1966 to finance the construction or acquisition of a capital improvement, or for the purchase of a specific piece of capital equipment. The balance in the capital reserve fund is \$4,200. The District uses the fund to cover the maintenance and repair of the sidewalks and the boardwalk that runs from the Beach Club to Rye Ledge.

The Budget Committee reviewed the 2023 proposed budget for the Rye Beach Village District.

Motion by Doug Abrams to recommend the 2023 Rye Beach Village District Budget in the amount of \$146,575. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. Vote: 10-0

Article #6: To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand (\$30,000) to be added to the General Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum will come from unassigned fund balance. No amount raised for taxation. And furthermore, to name the Commissioners as agents to expend.

Recommended by the Commissioners

Motion by Doug Abrams to recommend Article #6. Seconded by Shawn Crapo. Vote: 10-0

Chair Marion opened to the public for questions.

Joe Cummins, 990 Washington Road, asked if the rate revenue is for the post office building in the Village District.

Mr. Drake confirmed that the first level of the post office is leased. The District also receives rent from the Sewer Commission, as they have an office on the second floor.

Mr. Cummins spoke about his concern in regard to the clearing of snow on the sidewalks at Sea Road.

Mr. Drake noted that the District does not clear the sidewalks of snow.

Mr. Cummins asked about tree care in the District.

Mr. Drake explained that the District works with the Town when it comes to pruning and maintaining, as the trees are in the town right-of-way. If a big limb comes down in the street, the Town will take care of it because they have to maintain their right-of-way.

Steven Borne, 431 Wallis Road, asked for a copy of the district budgets, which was provided to him.

B. Jenness Beach Precinct

Randy Crapo, Representing Jenness Beach Precinct, presented the proposed budget for the precinct for 2023.

The Committee reviewed the actuals for 2022 and the 2023 proposed budget.

Motion by Doug Abrams to recommend \$105,725 for the Jenness Beach Village District Budget. Seconded by Jeffrey Abrams.

Chair Marion opened to the public for comments.

Mr. Crapo answered Mr. Cummins question about the electric budget.

Selectman King asked for the current total in the unassigned fund balance.

Mr. Crapo noted that it is \$35,000.

Hearing no further questions, Chair Marion called for a vote to recommend the Jenness Beach Village District in the amount of \$105,725.

Vote: 10-0

C. Rye Water District

Art Ditto, representing the Rye Water District, presented the proposed 2023 budget and warrant articles for the Water District. Some of the normal operational increases to the budget include line items for the District's complexes for heating fuel and electric. There is also an increase to the Sagamore Road building maintenance to cover costs to upgrade the security for the office. The increase to wages for staff is due to the COLA, which is consistent with the Town at 5%. The budget also includes wages for an additional operator for the field, along with an increase in employee benefits. Other increases to the budget include; water analysis, operations equipment for the purchase of a utility van, and extensions and improvements to cover costs related to several planned projects. The total proposed operating budget is \$2,159,446.

Article #04 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in the District's existing Storage Tank Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established for the purpose of maintaining the water storage tanks. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority Vote Required)

This article is recommended by the Commissioners: 2-0

Motion by Shawn Crapo to recommend Article #04. Seconded by Jeffrey Ross. Vote: 10-0

Chair Marion opened to the public for comments.

Mr. Borne suggested having a summary at the annual meeting on some of the items that have increased in the budget. He also asked questions about chlorination in the Cedar Run well.

Mr. Ditto noted that Cedar Run well is chlorinated, as it runs through the Bailey Brook pump station building and that's where the chlorination is taking place.

Mr. Cummins spoke about his concerns on the process of preparing the budget and referred to RSA 32:16.

Member Grote noted that if there is a concern about the procedure, it should be brought up at a select board meeting.

Mr. Cummins asked a few questions about the operations of the Water District.

Mr. Ditto answered Mr. Cummins questions.

Article #05 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the District's existing Equipment and Buildings Capital Reserve Fund established for the purpose of purchase, repair, modification, or replacement of equipment and buildings that support operations of the water distribution system. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority Vote Required)

This article is recommended by the Commissioners: 2-0

Motion by Shawn Crapo to recommend Article #05. Seconded by Jeffrey Ross. Vote: 10-0

Note: *Member Grote left the meeting before the following two votes due to technology issues.*

Article #06 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the District's existing System Replacement Capital Reserve Fund established for the purpose of replacing or enlarging the distribution system. (Majority Vote Required)

This article is recommended by the Commissioners: 2-0

Motion by Shawn Crapo to recommend Article #06. Seconded by Ralph Hickson. Vote: 9-0

Article #07 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million One Hundred Fifty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Six Dollars (\$2,159,446) for general District operations and to defray Water District charges for the ensuing year. This article does not include appropriations contained in any other article addressed. (Majority Vote Required.)

This article is recommended by the Commissioners: 3-0

Motion by Doug Abrams to recommend Article #07. Seconded by Shawn Crapo.

Chair Marion asked for further comments from the public.

Mr. Borne spoke about engaging the public in the budgeting process.

Hearing no further comments, Chair Marion called for a vote on Article #07.

Vote: 9-0

Public hearing was closed at 8:32 p.m.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Doug Abrams to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Seconded by Suzanne Barton. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger