

MINUTES

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**January 9, 2024
5:00 PM**

ATTENDEES: Justin Kenison, John Garrison, Leo Enos, Erik Becker, Leo Rideout, Jr., John Eddy, Tricia Frenette, Racheal Stuart, Linda Upham-Bornstein, Select board rep Shane Beattie

Others in Attendance: Select board member Kathy-Jean Lavoie, Town Manager Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson, Clerk Charity Baker, Finance Director Michael Nadeau, Members of the Public

Meeting was called to order at 5:19 p.m.

Motion made by John G and seconded by Erik to accept the December 12, 2023 and December 19, 2023 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ben created 4 options for moving forward with a budget to present to the public and asked that the committee review each option and decide which they would like to present to the public or if they had any other ideas to help reduce the budget.

Option 1 is to make no changes from what was presented at the December 19, 2023 meeting. (option details attached)

Option 2 is to add a Surplus Fund Balance appropriation to the revenue. (option details attached)

Option 3 is if the Town was to eliminate the Town Manager position. (option details attached)

Option 4 is to Nickel & Dime the budget which Ben proposed the last adjustments he was able to find to reduce expenditures. (option details attached)

Ben suggested approving option 4 with the additional adjustments to present to the public at the hearing and then the committee can decide at the hearing if they wish to make additional changes.

John G. shared an article on “rethinking reserves” which was published by GFOA and a report on the history of Lancaster’s Surplus Fund Balance. (both are attached). He also mentioned that some of the surplus fund balance can be added to the capital reserve funds.

There was much discussion as to other changes that can be made to reduce the expenditures, areas where fees are not being charged appropriately to cover costs, and whether it was in the best interest of the town to take funds from the surplus fund balance where the committee has been working so hard toward capital improvements and planning for the future.

Motion made by Erik and seconded by John G. to move forward with Option 4 to present to the public at the hearing on February 6, 2023. There was no other discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Erik and seconded by John G. to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Charity M. Baker

Justin Kenison, chair