



19 December 2022

JOINT MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE

In attendance:

Selectboard: Seth Hopkins (chair), Brian Coolidge, Ralph Ethier, Tim Guiles.

Budget committee: Barry Varian, Jan Coolidge, Neil Silins.

Others: David Kachajian, Jackie Savela, David Atherton (left early), Jim Emerson (left earlier), Bill Moore.

Town of Brandon
49 Center St
Brandon, VT
05733

SELECTBOARD

Seth Hopkins
Chair

Tracy Wyman
Vice-chair

Brian Coolidge
Clerk

Tim Guiles
Selectman

Ralph Ethier
Selectman

1 Meeting was called to order by Seth Hopkins, chair, at 7PM. On motion of Brian Coolidge and second by Ralph Ethier the agenda as warned was adopted for the meeting, 4-0. Public present sat around the large tables with the board & committee.

2 David Atherton advised the class 2 paving grant would likely come to the Town during the budget cycle we're discussing (FY24) and those present came to consensus that the ~\$152,000 highway carry forward plus the \$200,000+ grant would be sufficient for this budget's paving projects.

Discussion was lengthy and included consideration of level-funding the police department, level-service by the police department, the possibility of retiring the ~\$237,000 police station bond with unrestricted general fund reserve on hand to eliminate 10 years of a \$26,000 payment, further contemplation of a new highway barn, the optimal amount to leave in the unrestricted general fund reserve and the optimal amount if any to apply to reduce the amount to be raised by taxes, the purpose of the 1% local option tax having been stated at its inception to relieve pressure on the operating budget, and the appropriate level of staff cost of living increase to propose. Resolution remained elusive as the hour approached 10 o'clock.

3 Those present agreed to warn an additional workshop for Thursday 22 December at 7PM at the town office, second floor.

4 On motion of Brian Coolidge and second by Ralph Ethier a not debatable motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 4-0.

Adjournment came at 9:56PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Hopkins, chair of selectboard