

# **St George Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**

April 22, 2019

Meeting convened at 6pm with Susy Ellis, Richard Cohen, Earl Ludman Scott Vaitones, Liz May and Dave Percival in attendance.

The minutes of the meeting on March 7 were discussed and a motion was made by Scott and seconded by Richard to accept the minutes. All approved.

The main focus of the meeting was on comparing expenses recorded through the 3rd Quarter of the fiscal year to the approved budget.

The following comments apply to the **Town Office** section:

- The 80.52 percent on The Finance Director's position reflects the division of salaries between Elisabeth Curtis(former Director) and Terri the current Director. Note: This variance will also appear under the Harbor Master's position.

- The excess monies spent for the Annual Audit was due to an extra charge. A decision was made by the Town to replace the Auditor for the coming fiscal year.

- There has been fewer funds expended for Professional Services as there have been less legal issues requiring lawyers.

## **Select Board/Assessors**

- The percentage spent on employee benefits (80.49) seems high but the rationale is that more employees are availing themselves of the higher retirement savings plan that allows for matching contribution.

- A discussion of the Town's solar power credits from what Revision indicates power usage and the reimbursement from CMP. CMP finally recognizes now all the credits due to us. However, and there will be a delay to collect on them as most of our electric bill is paid to Revision for the solar produced electricity. There is a need to carefully monitor heating and electricity usage going forward. It was noted that the same credit imbalance was noted in the Fire Department and Solid Waste

- Abatement expenses were lower than in the previous year. Budget was increased to cover anticipated expenses which never materialized.

## **Planning:**

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The low percentage of funds expended for the Conservation Commission was noted and the explanation is that most of their activity is in the Spring.

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### **Fire Department**

-So far overall Department expenses are lower since the intent is to make necessary expenditures in the 4th Quarter.

### **Roads/Property Management**

-Maintenance Personnel expenses are high because there was a need to cover for Steve while he was ill. Steve is back on duty.

-Line Item 7202: Winter Roads Contract percentage is particularly high because of the lag time between the accrual of expenses and reimbursement from the State.

### **Solid Waste**

-Fuel expenses will be reimbursed by the users of fuel, mostly the school, ambulance and Kalloch, a town road contractor. Each user has a card to obtain fuel which at the same time records usage.

### **General Assistance**

-It was noted that most of the expense is during the winter months.

### **Harbors**

-As was previously noted, expenses for the Harbor Master cover the recently retired Dave Schmanska and the incoming replacement.

-Public landing monies were used for the repair of the retaining wall at 10 Cold Storage facility. Bond money is in the 10 Cold Storage expenses.

-The Harbor Committee and the Town are monitoring the monies being used to upgrade the overall facility at 10 Cold Storage.

### **Revenues**

-A general discussion was held on how the Town gets reimbursed by the State for various revenue sharing expenses such as the Homestead agreement.

Praise all around for the 6 years that Earl Ludman served on the committee. With that, Earl made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Richard, meeting adjourned at 6:55.

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Respectfully submitted

David Percival  
Secretary