

**Board of Selectmen
September 27, 2022**

Present: Richard C. Edwards, Chair; Kenneth G. Fifield; Dino A. Scala, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary. Also present were Brock Mitchell, DPW Director; and Joe Gore, Transfer Station Manager. The purpose of this meeting is to review proposed 2023 department budgets. Mr. Edwards called the posted meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Public Works – Transfer Station

Mr. Gore referred to Best Management Practices suggesting 6+ employees (at the Transfer Station) for 10,000 residents. He is asking for one additional employee, which would bring the total to 5, and he would like this to occur as soon as possible. Mr. Fifield noted that such a proposal should be included in the proposed 2023 budget. Mr. Edwards sought confirmation that everything is working right now. Mr. Gore advised that 2 staff members had to give back unused vacation time. Discussion followed as to whether the Town of Wakefield pays for unused vacation time when an employee is unable to utilize their time. Perhaps a part-time employee would be sufficient. Mr. Mitchell had been unaware of this proposal. He suggested that the newest employee at the DPW could be used to haul cans. Mr. Fifield suggested that \$17,000 in a part-time line would allow for flexibility and could be used to hire a part-time individual or to utilize an existing DPW employee when possible. **Mr. Fifield moved to add a Part-Time line in the 2023 Transfer Station budget, to appropriate \$15,000 for said line and to accept the section total at \$604,613. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.**

Most of the overall increase in the proposed 2023 Transfer Station budget is due to inflation. Mr. Mitchell confirmed to Mr. Fifield that revenues have increased by about \$10,000. Discussion followed as to the expectation for increased revenues in the future. Mr. Gore left the session at 5:25 p.m.

Sewer

Mr. Mitchell noted we will have new pump stations for 2023; therefore, this budget request shows a slight decrease. **Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$129,658. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.** This results in a user rate of \$10.76 per thousand gallons.

Public Works – Town Maintenance

Mr. Mitchell is proposing a total of \$183,000. Mr. Scala noted that the cost to clean up a Union property was taken from the Welfare budget; however, it more appropriately may have been taken from the Town Maintenance Outside Hire line. Discussion followed as to why this could have been considered a DPW expense. **Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$183,000. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.**

Public Works – Highways, etc.

Mr. Mitchell noted that this includes an additional full-time employee. **Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$557,668. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.**

Public Works – Street Lights

Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$35,000. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Discussion ensued regarding Mr. Mitchell's plans for work in 2023, which include finishing Oak Hill and Brackett and rebuilding Leighton's Corner, which he would eventually like to pave. The merits of dirt roads vs. paved roads evolved, including the cost of maintenance.

If Leighton Corner were paved, one DPW truck could address entire plow route in that area (rather than sending one truck with salt, another with sand only). He also intends to work on Canal Road from Witchtrot to the new bridge. Briefly discussed a potential warrant article to address Bonnyman Road.

General Government – Voter Registration

Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$2557. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Elections, Registrations, etc.

Mr. Scala noted the Dog Licensing line (01-41401-680) should be reduced to \$4000. Mr. Fifield moved the revised section total at \$123,445. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Community Services – Patriotic Purposes

Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$1500. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

General Government – General Administration

Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$107,478. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

General Government – Greater Wakefield Resource Center

Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$1. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0. A capital reserve fund has been established to address the Town's responsibilities at this site.

General Government – Executive

Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$159,433. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

General Government – Legal

Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$17,000. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

General Government – Town Hall

Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$66,277. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Mr. Fifield moved to adjourn at 7 p.m. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

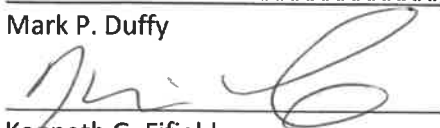
Approval of Minutes:



Richard C. Edwards, Chair

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Mark P. Duffy



Kenneth G. Fifield