

Budget Working Meeting
of the Selectmen
of the Town of Alexander

21 May 2024

Attendance:

All 5 selectmen:

Skip Colson
David Davis
Foster Carlow Jr.
David Sanford
Carl Oakes

And:

Rhonda Oakes
Carlos Oakes Jr.
Kristy Crawford
Larry Hill

Start time: 5:09 PM

Kristy mentioned that the new tax assessment survey is quickly becoming an issue in the office because tax payers have been coming into the town office asking many questions such as, "Can you help me with this information?" "Can I look at the tax map?" "...my tax assessment property card?" Can you tell me if I have a septic system or holding tank?

There was discussion of the amounts of money used in the Administration account.

There was discussion of the Undesignated Fund: Using it to decrease what must be raised in the 2024-2025 fiscal year and to decrease what will have to be raised in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, especially because Alexander Elementary School staff members will be getting a substantial, state-mandated pay increase. Larry said he was concerned about the town having a large amount in the Undesignated Fund. Kristy explained that some surplus is needed so that overseeing entities (like the State of Maine) don't express concerns. Auditors have not found the amount excessive. Additionally, the town makes about \$10,000 in interest from the bank each year, which is only increasing.

Other accounts were briefly discussed, but only briefly, since the amounts of money needed were mostly fixed or required amounts.

The Road Account was discussed extensively and what summer road maintenance would be done this summer.

Carl suggested putting boulders along the intersection of the Davis and Crawford roads in order to stop people from cutting that corner, which is already stressed from being a low area where water accumulates.

Larry said that David Lee, would not be able to do the Davis Road repair until about September 1 [later than expected].

Cemetery account

Rhonda explained that she and Jane are trying to see exactly how much it costs to maintain the cemetery, including how much it costs to hire people to do the work. For now, much of the work is done for free by volunteers. But many volunteers are older; younger people may not be willing to do the work for free. Carl is keeping these records.

Skip said he would help with the tree removal at the cemetery.

Currently, Jim and Dolly Sullivan arrange for the wreaths for veteran graves, which wreaths are a little expensive. In the future, lower-priced wreaths made by someone in town, such as Justina Niles, might be purchased instead.

Downeast Community Partners (a non-profit) was mentioned, but their requested donation amount was not available for the meeting.

[See next page.]

2024-2025 fiscal year town budget warrant
 recommendations (Blank rectangle = zero dollars)

Meeting end time was 6:39 PM.

(Numbers are dollar amounts)	Raised from taxes	Raised from Revenue	Appropriate from Undesignated Fund
Administration	95,000		20,000
Animal Welfare			
County Tax	123,005		
AVFD	19,200		
General Assistance	3,500		
Solid Waste	55,000		
Roads		135,000	81,200
DEEMS	?????	???????	?????????
Forest Fire Insurance	6,000		
Cemetery	5,000		
Capital Investment	1,000		
Donations	?????????	?????????	?????????
Building Maintenance			
TRIO			
Legal Fund			
Grant writing			
Archive Project			
Comprehensive Planning			
Overlay			
1st Responder Loan payoff			