

SEARSPORT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY JANUARY 26, 2023
UNION HALL / TOWN OFFICE
6:00pm

Members Present

Dorothy Alling, Chair	Steve Bulloch
George Kerper	Ronald Cook
Daniel Rich	Marjorie Knuuti
Jennifer Rich	Arthur J. Koch, Jr
Norris Staples	Harold Marr
John Moran	Robert Jeffrey Pearson
William Kulbe	

Staff

James Gillway, Town Manager
Janine Laveway, Board Secretary

Members of the Public

Ben Pearson, Swan Lake Association

1. Call To Order: Vice Chair Moran called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
- :
3. Acceptance of the minutes from the January 12, 2023 meeting. Motion: A.J. Koch made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Second: George Kerper Vote 11-0-01. Ron Cook Abstained.
4. Old Business: None
5. New Business

Consideration of draft warrant articles. James Gillway gave a brief overview of the process. Each of the three warrant articles was considered individually.

Article 17. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to appropriate up to \$250,000.00 dollars from surplus to fund items within the 2023 municipal budget that would otherwise be raised by taxes. The Select Board will be authorized to set the amount **up to 250,000.00** after the annual audit. James Gillway explained that the surplus dollar amount is unknown at this time due to the lack of an audit which has yet to be done. Motion: A.J. Koch made a motion to accept the article as amended to include up to \$250,000.00 in the last sentence. Second: Rusty Marr. Vote 12-0-0.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to add \$120,000.00 to the budget to enhance the Ambulance Services for the Town of Searsport. Funds for this addition to come from Surplus. This request is to increase the wages of the ambulance attendants and to help recruit new members with a focus on paramedics. Motion: A.J. Koch made a motion to accept the article as written. Second: Ron Cook Vote 12-0-0

Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to fund repairs and improvements to the Municipal Tennis Courts up to \$10,000.00 to resurface the courts and to replace one court with two Pickle Ball Courts. The courts were built in 1972 and are on land that is leased from the school department on a 50 year lease. They were last resurfaced in 2010 or 2011 and have had very little maintenance since then. Motion: Ron Cook made a motion to accept the article as written. Second: A.J. Koch Vote: 12-0-0

6. Consideration of Out of House Requests: George Kerper gave an overview and provided a spreadsheet to help explain the formula that he is recommending based on the 2022 approved amounts plus 15%. Any organizations that requested less will be awarded their requested amount. The others will receive a 15% increase across the board. This takes the emotions out of the equation and treats all requests, regardless of the organization, equally and fairly. After lengthy discussion it was decided to change three of the dollar amounts being recommended by George. Waldo County Wood Shed was increased from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00. Game loft was increased from \$150.00 to \$400.00. HOBBA was decreased from \$2,000.00 to \$600.00. Motion: A.J. Koch made a motion to move the question. Seconded: Steve Bulloch Vote: 13-0-0

Motion: A.J. Koch made a motion to recommend the following Dollar amounts be awarded to the out of house accounts:

Searsport Historical Society	\$ 2,000.00
Kindness Program	0.00
Friends of Sears Island	\$ 2,000.00
Swan Lake Association	\$ 1,200.00
Waldo County Woodshed	\$ 1,000.00
Lifeflight	\$ 662.00
Waldo CAP	\$18,500.00
Spectrum Generations	\$ 1,000.00
Waldo Hospice Volunteers	\$ 1,500.00
New Hope for Women	\$ 1,150.00
YMCA	\$ 1,100.00
Game Loft	\$ 400.00
SSASM	\$ 575.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 250.00
Head of the Bay	\$ 600.00

Second: Ron Cook. Vote: 13-0-0.

7. Committee Questions/Concerns: Discussion was held regarding the budget process this year. Steve Bulloch asked why the BAC is meeting after the Select Board has met and already decided what they were going to give and why is the BAC meeting without anyone coming forward to give their proposals. He questioned the advisory role of the board when the Select Board meets prior to the BAC. Marge Knuuti asked if it would be possible to receive the documents pertaining to the meetings prior to it and not be handed them just before and during the meeting. She stated there is not enough time to adequately consider the information. George Kerper requested the accurate dollar amounts recommended from the BAC spreadsheet be printed in the town meeting warrant in addition to the dollar amounts the Select Board is recommending.

8. Public Comment: Ben Pearson spoke on behalf of The Swan Lake Association giving an overview of the projects completed last year and the anticipated projects to be completed this year. He thanked the BAC for their recommendation of \$1,200.00.

9. Adjourn: Motion: A.J. Koch made a motion to adjourn. Second; Dorothy Alling. Vote 13-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Janine F. Laveway
Board Secretary

APPROVED 2-2-2023