

Bennington Budget Hearing

January 22, 2024

Meeting Minutes – 7:00 pm

Selectboard: Chairman, James Cleary, Tony Parisi, Tom James

Moderator: John Cronin

Department Heads and Public: See Attached

Moderator, John Cronin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Mr. Cronin opened the meeting discussing how the meeting is to be conducted. Reading through each budget, any questions should initially be directed to the Moderator or the Board of Selectmen.

The meeting initially started with Mr. Cronin reading the executive budget, request for 2024 is \$196,366. Chairman Cleary explained the significant increase in this and other budgets is an increase in contractual obligations (i.e. insurances are increased 14%) No questions or comments.

Once the ambulance budget was reached it was discussed the increase from \$25,000 to \$30,000 and why this increase was requested. The reason being, significant increases of calls from a local business, which when the insurances pay out, the recipient doesn't always pay the ambulance bill.

The next question was regarding the Emergency Management budget and the purchase of 10 AED. It was questioned how long they last and where will they be placed. EMD, Keith Nason responded with they last approximately 15 years and they will be placed in every town building (Town Hall, Library, VFW, Highway, Transfer Station)

Each budget continued to be reviewed with no questions or comments. The meeting was coming to a close and a resident did ask in the future if the budget could be ready for the public prior to the budget meeting and also if the titles and page numbers could be put on each page. The Town Administrator indicated she will do this in 2025. Moderator, John Cronin thanked everyone for attending this hearing.

The SB2, deliberative session will be held on February 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the gymnasium of the town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Debra Davidson, Town Administrator

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Jeslie MacGregor

Joe MacGugler

Rob Christian

Jason LePine

Dave Desautels

Dave Foster

Karen Belcher

Debra Belcher

Curtis Dude

Jugster Medley

Keith Wason

~~Mamber~~

Shelley Grismud

Robyn Clough

Jessica Timmons

Mike in Hall

~~Bill~~

~~Bill~~

Cathy M Gilticuddy

Delva Paardon