SELECTBOARD BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING WORKING BUDGET MEETING WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29, 2023 – 1:30 PM – COLLIER ROOM

CALLED MEETING TO ORDER: 1:30 pm

PRESENT: Gary Circosta, Eric Hanson, Dave Kelley, Ellen Celnik, Peter Romans

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Greaves, Brett Stanciu, Tom Camarra

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Executive Session for Personnel

Meeting called to order at 1:36 pm.

This meeting is to review and make changes to the 2025 budget

Peter opened inquiring if the library driveway plowing had been resolved, Tom confirmed that it had.

Tom explained that the sidewalk plow machine was down for repairs. Trucking it to HP Fairfield would be expensive. Peter inquired if there was a closer mechanic to work on it as Tom said there was no time or room in the shop for the road crew to repair it. Peter asked Tom to call around to different repair shops, i.e. Pete's Repair in Morrisville, to see if they could work on it. Kim will put a notice on the website that the machine was down and sidewalks would be cleared when machine was repaired.

The entire 2025 Budget was reviewed along with the following specific points:

Review of the remainder of the road budget. Tom didn't have a specific payroll increase in mind. The board decided to put in a 3.2% COLA increase.

Discussion on the HERF and cost of equipment. Tom will call Peacham to see what they have to lease costs of road equipment. \$130,000 will be put in.

The Conservation Commission asked for a one-time increase of \$1,000 to help repair the Porter Brook trail at Highland Lodge.

Jennifer Lucas sent in a letter requesting the library appropriation be set at \$42,000.

Gary is still working on the Lamoille County Sheriff contract for dispatch.

Orleans County Sheriff submitted their contract of \$195,700.

Discussion of transferring ARPA funds to the general fund.

Gary asked what the legal requirements for the renewal of the \$1,000,000 letter of credit were. Dave will ask Phil Woodward, legal counsel at VLCT.

David Kelley left the meeting at 3:25 pm.

Eric moved to enter Executive Session at 3:25 pm to discuss a personnel issue. Gary seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The Board left executive session at 3:40 pm and took no action.

Adjourned 3:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted-Kim Greaves, Town Clerk

AMENDED 1/11/24 J.K.