# Sullivan Budget Committee - Meeting Minutes

## March 18, 2024 5:00 PM

Attendance: Gary Edwards, Don Snoke, Bethany Leavitt, Myra Hornberger, John Hornberger, Candy Eaton, Ray Weintraub; absent: Roger Wakefield

Call to Order 5:02

Item 1 Minutes from March 12 meeting - Jack/Motion to approve / Don/Second - unanimous approval

Item 2. Comp Plan Stakeholder questions (30 minutes)

What is your focus and/or primary responsibility? Our focus is to review, analyze and budget presented by administration, make recommendations to the Select Board. Fiscal responsibility resides with SB, budget committee deals with the budget as a document/plan.

What are your immediate needs? Information from other committees/entities; understanding from community & SB as to immediate financial needs. Need annually info on mil rates, cash flow information, broader base planning for the future built into the current budget, so that we are pro-active, not re-active.

What are your future needs? Long-term needs of town; 5-10 year Capital improvement Plan (CIP); new citizen members should receive training from MMA; quick prep session for budget committee — so that we all start at the same place. Sullivan should coordinate with other municipalities in RSU#24 ($28k/student vs $18k/student in Bucksport)? Discussion about difficulties of understanding budget. Invite RSU#24 Superintendent / Financial Manager to an early budget meeting (Fall 2024?). New expenditure for current year - FMLA reserve fund (once & done).

Where and what additional support and resources could you use? Training available from MMA; share electronically with committee; monthly expense/revenue and monthly/quarterly balance sheet (assets & liabilities) shared with SB & budget committee(?).

What would you like to see come out of Sullivan's comprehensive plan? A document that a community will accept/pass/approve. Financially, we need to provide more people to do the work; dependent upon volunteers for years. Need to hire professionals - facilities maintenance, public service — staff/ contracted services. Realistic goals/objectives for the town; understanding what the town can/cannot do - what is the town's role? Setting the stage for what the town is going to provide and in the future. Discussion of general maintenance; staff vs. contracted services. Facilities/programs that make us a better community that are not being done currently. Public works may be a way to save money - economy of scale. Trades are so thin — need more help! Livability index. Have Comp Plan do a needs assessment what is/is not getting done - most efficiently deliver that service. Assessment of what town can/cannot provide.

Is there anything else that you would like to share about what Sullivan would look like in 10 years? Town have authority to enforce ordinances; local constable/code enforcement; discussion of laws that cannot be enforced by State Police/Sheriff's Office; investigate opportunities to enhance police/fire/EMS service in Sullivan; MDI is discussing providing police coverage island wide - needs/services available; encourage community to look for ways to cooperate with other communities to meet needs/services - collaborate. Congregate housing for older adults, workforce housing, etc.

Item 3. Return to Budget departmental review

Age-Friendly Sullivan: Discussion of $5000 request (no increase); detail continue for SF24-25; discussion that allocation in the warrant article represents total amount, line items can be adjusted as needed. Grants are in addition to municipal funds. Grants are for new/expanded projects. Municipal funds maintain existing projects/programs.

Frenchman's Bay Library: Discussion of increase from $6k to $8k represents 20% of annual budget; 50% of same for Sorrento. Discussion of reimbursement of EPL membership card / $30/year. FBL provides a lot more than this community is aware. Supporting local services paramount.

MOTION: Recommend reimbursement for Ellsworth Public Libraries for Sullivan memberships/ change line item description - same amount $1100. Myra motion/Jack second - unanimous approval.

Discussion of process - how many more meetings needed to review each section; want to see entire budget before voting. 2 meetings in April - 9th & 23rd; save April 30th if needed - Don will take minutes during April. Need to have Town Report before Memorial Day (5/27); meetings scheduled for May 7th & May 21st; Need for open public SB meeting for presentation of budget to Select Board — opportunity for community discussion to be scheduled.

Next meeting: Parks & Rec presentation - programs & facilities; Cemetery; Harbor Master; Town Roads; Additional categories as time allows.

Adjourn: 6:40p

Candy Eaton, Secretary