

1 **BENNINGTON SELECT BOARD BUDGET MEETING**

2 **BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY**

3 **MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM - 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**

4 **130 RIVER STREET**

5 **BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

6 **JANUARY 8, 2022**

7 **MINUTES**

8 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeannie Jenkins-Chair; Jeanne Conner-Vice Chair; Jim  
9 Carroll; Bruce Lee-Clark; and Tom Haley.

10 **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sarah Perrin and Gary Corey.

11 **ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Zoning Administrator and Assistant  
12 Town Manager; Melissa Currier-Finance Director; Michele Johnson-Human Resources and  
13 Contracts Administrator; Joan Pinsonneault-Treasurer; Paul Dansereau-Director of Facilities;  
14 Lynne Fonteneau McCann-Executive Director-Bennington Free Library; Jennie Rozycki-Library  
15 Director-John G. McCullough Free Library; Art Groux-Executive Director-Bennington Rescue  
16 Squad; Kevin Hoyt; Nancy White; Michael Wajda; Kelly Carroll; Al Bashevkin; 15 citizens; Jim  
17 Vires-CAT-TV and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

18 At 9:00am, Chair Jeannie Jenkins called the meeting to order and explained the format  
19 of the meeting, as well as, asked people to social distance, wear a mask, and disinfect the  
20 microphone as they wish.

21 **1. F.Y. 23 BUDGET WORK SESSION**

22 **A. RECREATION**

23 *Mr. Hurd did the following presentation on Recreation:*

- 24 • #01-7100.560 - Other Purchased Services - \$144,000. The YMCA’s contract was reduced  
25 by \$78,590 because they had a good year and utilized several grant opportunities.
- 26 • #01-7100.650 - Other Purchased Services - \$38,760. Lease payment has increased by  
27 \$38,760 because of the Benn High space and the Bennington Sports Center (BSC) space.
- 28 • #01-7180.830 - Machinery and Equipment - \$24,600. We propose to replace the current  
29 10 year old gas powered mower with a new electric 60” zero turn mower for \$24,600.
- 30 • #01-7100.440 - Grants, Subsidies, Contingency - \$12,360. This is the estimated cost for  
31 scholarships to various YMCA activities for Bennington youth.
- 32 • #01-7130.820 - Improvements Other Than Buildings - \$24,000. We propose to install  
33 lights along the segment of the River Walk between School and Park Streets.

34 *Board questions/comments answered by Mr. Hurd:*

35 Ms. Jenkins: Why are we paying less for the YMCA contract? The Management Agreement  
36 requires that we cover the cost of operations and personnel, at all of the facilities that the Y is  
37 using. At the end of the year, we true up with the Y how they have done financially during the  
38 year. They were so successful, especially with grants, that we didn't pay them the last 3  
39 months of the year and have been able to reduce FY23's cost.

40 *Public questions/comments answered by Mr. Hurd:*

41 Nancy White: In January 2021, we paid the Y an additional \$75,000 to go into Benn High but  
42 they aren't in there, correct? They are in there for adult programs but have moved the  
43 children's to the BSC building.

44 Nancy White: When does the Y budget run? Calendar year, January thru December and our  
45 budget runs July thru June.

46 Nancy White: Why did the Y bill us when they weren't in the Benn High building? We had  
47 monies budgeted but were not required to spend it.

48 Nancy White: #01-9531.850 - Splash Pad - \$0.00. The Splash Pad started in 2018 and was a  
49 \$127,000 project that the community had no say in where to put it. Wasn't the bathroom  
50 done 2 years ago? Yes, and any expenses the Town paid for it were fully reimbursed by Grow  
51 Bennington through the BBC.

52 Nancy White: What happened to the money from the Splash Pad lawsuit? We never received  
53 any money from that and Grow Bennington paid for the process.

54 Nancy White: #01-9557.850 - Dog Park - \$0.00. Who paid for that? It was paid for with donated  
55 funds.

56 Nancy White: We were told renovating Willow Park would be \$250K but it is now up to \$500K.  
57 Who will pay for this? We will probably be using the ARPA funds for that project. Material costs  
58 have increased substantially and we are also going to be doing the area for very young children.  
59 The public will have their input in the spring when we have put together our proposals. Ms.  
60 Jenkins added that there will be an explanation of the priority list of how to spend the ARPA  
61 funds at the Select Board meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup> and the public will have two weeks to make  
62 their comments/suggestions.

63 Nancy White: You went \$200K over the Recreation Budget so someone should be monitoring  
64 this. Remember that the Reserve Funds, donations, and grants are not reflected in the budget.

65 Nancy White:

66 • We spent \$50,000 at the Rec Center, itself. Who paid for that? The fence was a  
67 grant and the Town paid for the lighting.

- 68 • #01-7170.810 - Improvements - \$28,000. This is for HVAC improvements in the  
69 Town's part of the building.
- 70 • How much does UCS pay for rent? \$1/year.
- 71 • We need to follow up on when UCS will do the dugouts they had promised.
- 72 • The \$144K budgeted for the Y was redirected to other expenses because we did  
73 not need it all for the Y.
- 74 • The Agreement with the Y was amended in January but they did so well it wasn't  
75 necessary to pay them the last three months.
- 76 • The Y gets the membership fees and they no longer turn them over to the Town  
77 Office when we would essentially send them back to the Y. They provide our Finance  
78 Director an annual financial report.

79 Ms. Jenkins recommended that Ms. White meet with Mr. Hurd privately for any  
80 additional questions, and Mr. Monks added that "we are paying far less now for more services  
81 than we did before we started our relationship with the YMCA".

82 Michael Wajda: A member of the Interfaith Council thanked the Town for putting money in the  
83 budget for improvements to the River Walk.

84 Kelly Carroll: Reiterated Mr. Wajda's comments, noted that there may be grant monies  
85 available for the lighting, and invited everyone to join in the walk on January 15<sup>th</sup> at People's  
86 Park at 10:00am to remember Emily. Mr. Hurd clarified that the \$24,000 in the budget for the  
87 lighting is our share if receiving grant dollars is successful.

88 Al Bashevkin: Supports the lighting on the River Walk, as well as, future enhancements along all  
89 of the walking/biking trails in the Town. He is also pleased to see all of the activity going on  
90 since we have established our relationship with the YMCA.

91 Kevin Hoyt: Ms. Jenkins reminded Mr. Hoyt, "since he went off the rails at the last meeting"  
92 that his comments must be specific to the Recreation budget or he will be ruled out of order  
93 immediately. Mr. Hoyt made the following comments:

- 94 ○ We're using the Y for grant writers and have given all of our property away.
- 95 ○ We are over budget by \$200,000 in Recreation - remember that when considering  
96 Stuarts raise.
- 97 ○ Referred to the December 9, 2019 Board meeting....Ms. Jenkins declared him out of  
98 order.
- 99 ○ Continued to talk about previous meetings, voting issues, a Secretary of State letter, and  
100 election fraud.

101 Mr. Hoyt was escorted from the meeting by the police officer on duty.

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104 **B. GENERAL FUND**

105 *Mr. Hurd did the following presentation on the General Fund:*

- 106 • We are now paying \$84,000 for recycling and have been told that this is starting  
107 to come down. The budget, however, is based on the past two year’s activity.
- 108 • Buildings and Grounds - Last year we added one position to this line. This year,  
109 we propose to add a second position to this budget due to increased maintenance for  
110 added facilities that will impact benefit and pension costs, as well.
- 111 • The Communication Coordinator’s position has been moved into the Community  
112 Development Department budget. This position has been a positive addition to our  
113 staff.

114 *Board questions/comments answered by Mr. Hurd and Paul Dansereau, Director of Facilities:*

115 Mr. Lee-Clark: How many riding mowers does the Town own? We have a smaller one that is  
116 being replaced for the fire facility grounds and a 60” mower that we are replacing with a  
117 commercial grade electric mower that will mow more quietly for 8 hours on a charged battery.

118 Ms. Conner: Is there a charging station in the building the mower is stored in? A power source  
119 will be there.

120 Ms. Jenkins: Is there another option among the vehicles we already have in the Town to leasing  
121 a hybrid SUV for inspections? Our current sedan is fine for downtown but not the move remote  
122 areas where an SUV would be more practical.

123 Mr. Carroll: What will the savings be with a non-carbon fuel pump and what is the life  
124 expectancy? We don’t know at this time. Ms. Jenkins added that it would be good to know  
125 after an amount of time what the savings are.

126 *Public questions/comments:*

127 None.

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129 **C. THE REMAINDER OF THE BUDGET**

130 *Mr. Hurd did the following presentation on the Remaining Budget not yet discussed:*

- 131 • #01-7900-340 Senior Center Communications - \$6,360. This was increased by  
132 \$1,560 because we have contracted for all of our buildings to be converted to fiber and  
133 making us more secure.
- 134 • #01-7970.560 Senior Building Other Purchased Services - \$12,700 and #01-  
135 7970.680 Senior Building Repair and Maintenance - (\$12,700). The expenses we intend  
136 to incur in FY23 are mostly contracted services and better classified as Other Purchased  
137 Services instead of Repair and Maintenance.

- 138           •       #01-7900.100 Senior Citizens Admin Salaries & Wages - \$46,510 and #01-  
139           7900.152 Health Insurance - \$21,530. There is 1 employee at the Senior Center and this  
140           is a family plan for health insurance which actually has gone down from last year. This is  
141           the entire cost to the Town and the employee reimburses us 16% of that. Family = one  
142           child or more.
- 143           •       #01-9520.850 Reserve Fund Expenditures - Senior Center Programs - \$0.00. The  
144           \$3,400 spent in FY22 was from the Bernie Sanders Dollars for entertainment.

145    *Board questions/comments:*

146    Mr. Carroll: Have the parameters of the ARPA Funds been identified? We just received the final  
147    eligibility standards from the Department of the Treasury within the last couple of days and  
148    they are more flexible than we had anticipated. We will be talking about this at the Select  
149    Board meeting on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> with public input to take place during the following  
150    two weeks.

151    *Public questions/comments answered by Mr. Hurd:*

152    Nancy White: At Monday's meeting will we see the new downtown boundaries as opposed to  
153    what the downtown improvement district was? Ms. Jenkins answered no, we will be looking at  
154    economic development priorities and funding sources.

155    Nancy White: It's about Energizer though, isn't it? Ms. Jenkins responded no, Energizer is  
156    privately owned and there is an Energizer Report that we asked for that includes reuses of the  
157    building and a housing study that they did on the area. There will be three things happening on  
158    Monday - the Energizer Report, a general discussion on economic development and funding  
159    sources, and a priority list of projects that are shovel ready that can use ARPA or other funding.  
160    Also, the Town's Audit Report.

161    Nancy White: Are we going to keep the Senior Center because we fixed the roof for \$65,000  
162    instead of \$40,000? Mr. Hurd answered not necessarily but the roof had to be fixed either way.  
163    The future of that building depends on the future of Benn High. Once we have our plans in  
164    place, we will have a discussion with the public at a Select Board meeting.

165    Nancy White:

- 166           •       Spoke of what was supposed to happen at Benn High 6 years ago - it was under a  
167           different owner 6 years ago.
- 168           •       The broken window part of the building is blocked off and not part of what is being used  
169           today.
- 170           •       The building is still privately owned and the owner is slow to progress on some of the  
171           projects.
- 172           •       We were not able to open the Senior Center until June because we didn't have anyone  
173           to staff it and that was a time when we were considering whether or not to open any of our

174 buildings. We needed to act responsibility to the community regardless of what the  
175 Governor had said.

- 176 • If there is another community tour of Benn High, Ms. White was encouraged to  
177 participate and see first-hand the parts that have been renovated and in use.

178 Nancy White: Bennington Seniors should have their own space and not be among people from  
179 other communities or those much younger.

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181 **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

182 **A. SET SALARIES - TOWN MANAGER, TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER**

183 *At 10:30am, Jim Carroll moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded to go into Executive*  
184 *Session to set salaries for the Town Manager, Town Clerk and Treasurer. The motion carried*  
185 *with Gary Corey and Sarah Perrin absent.*

186 *At 10:55am, Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jeanne Conner seconded to come out of*  
187 *Executive Session. The motion carried with Gary Corey and Sarah Perrin absent.*

188 *Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jeanne Conner seconded to set the following salaries for*  
189 *FY23:*

190	<i>Town Manager</i>	<i>3% increase to</i>	<i>\$118,560.42</i>
191	<i>Town Clerk</i>	<i>3% increase to</i>	<i>\$ 92,701.65</i>
192	<i>Town Treasurer</i>	<i>3% increase to</i>	<i>\$ 15,916.28</i>

193 Mr. Lee-Clark added that social security will be increasing 5.9% due to the cost of living.

194 *The motion carried with Gary Corey and Sarah Perrin absent.*

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196 **1D. BENNINGTON FREE LIBRARY**

197 *Lynne Fonteneau McCann, Executive Director of the Bennington Free Library did the*  
198 *following presentation:*

- 199 ■ This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year the Library has requested level funding in recognition of the economy  
200 and the taxpayer burden.
- 201 ■ Over those 3 years, we have had an 8.8% reduction based on the aggregate COLA levels  
202 for the same period.
- 203 ■ Our private fundraising efforts have helped offset increased expenses.

- 204       ▪ Personnel costs are always challenging and 42% of staff received a 5.8% raise to  
205       accommodate the increased COLA percentage which triggered a large increase in the  
206       State minimum wage.
- 207       ▪ We offer the same resources to the community in different forms, such as, virtual  
208       programming, take out services, online book club, and delivering books to seniors.
- 209       ▪ We have permanently eliminated late fees.
- 210       ▪ We have adult programs, such as the aging gardener, and our children programs  
211       continue to flourish with fun and education.
- 212       ▪ We continue outreach at many local events.
- 213       ▪ Looking ahead, we have received a \$24,000 grant to advance technology in the library.
- 214       ▪ Last year we had over 13,000 wifi sessions, and from July thru December, we have done  
215       over 20,000.
- 216       ▪ For capital improvements, consideration was given to freshen the Main Street façade  
217       and an expansion of our visual history room.
- 218       ▪ We thank the Town for its continued support.

219 *Board questions/comments answered by Ms. McCann:*

220 Ms. Jenkins: Kudos to the inviting format of the Newsletter and the Children’s Library for its  
221 programming.

222 Mr. Haley: As the Board liaison to the Library, he was impressed with how conscientious they  
223 are in getting the most out of their budget. Their Board is moving in the right direction.

224 Mr. Lee-Clark: Requested to have the most recent complete year with the budget and actuals  
225 for that year side-by-side sent next year.

226 Ms. Jenkins: Have you considered heat pumps to help offset heating/cooling and electricity  
227 costs? Perhaps in the long term but not in the short term because there are other issues coming  
228 up. With efficiencies we have reduced our fuel consumption from 10,000 to 6,500 gallons and  
229 our A/C units are ductless. Mr. Lee-Clark added that the Energy Committee will work with you  
230 to find the cost savings of the heat pumps for you, as well as, anyone who seeks their  
231 assistance. We all must find ways to reduce fossil fuel consumption to meet State goals.

232 Ms. Jenkins: Thank you for what you do.

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234       **E. JOHN G. MCCULLOUGH FREE LIBRARY**

235               *Jennie Rozycki, Library Director, and Mary Rogers, Treasurer of the John G. McCullough*  
236 *Free Library did the following presentation:*

- 237       ○ We are requesting a \$5,000 increase in our appropriation to \$45,000 for operating  
238       costs.

- 239 ○ Building improvements that have just started include rewiring the building, accessible
- 240 rest rooms on both floors, hot water, water fountain, hard wired fire alarms, repairs to
- 241 the back door, repair from water damage, and the repurposing of the projection closet
- 242 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor into a small meeting and quiet study space.
- 243 ○ Since the Library is in its 100<sup>th</sup> year, we are planning a grand opening when the work to
- 244 the building is complete, hopefully by the end of April.
- 245 ○ The Kanopy Video Plays and LinkedIn Learning Tutorials have been very successful.

246 *Board questions/comments answered by Ms. Rozycki and Ms. Rogers:*

247 Ms. Jenkins: Have you been able to offset the \$5,000 increase that you're asking from us with  
 248 other sources? The Village of North Bennington have contributed ARPA funds toward the  
 249 qualifying renovations and we've received an ARPA grant for ~\$6,600 for the Tool Library  
 250 comprised of hand and kitchen tools, computer devices, a home energy efficiency testing, a  
 251 baby scale, a bike repair station, and more. Most of our budget increases is in Salaries and  
 252 Wages to compensate for the tireless work done by staff. We are reducing our percent of  
 253 income coming from municipalities each year and working toward self-sufficiency.

254 Mr. Lee-Clark: Why has your Other Donation line item gone from \$3,000 to \$20,500? We fully  
 255 intend to fund the purchase of the new chairs from fundraising and grants.

256 Ms. Conner: Kudos to Ms. Rogers for volunteering her expertise to the Library.

257 Ms. Jenkins: How you do all aspects of running the Library is "extraordinary", and we thank you  
 258 for that.

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260 **F. BENNINGTON RESCUE SQUAD BUDGET**

261 *Art Groux, Bennington Rescue Squad (BRS) Executive Director did the following*  
 262 *presentation:*

- 263 ● We realize this is a tight budget year and understand that our increase may very  
 264 well be zero.
- 265 ● We have responded to the most 911 calls in our history - 79% of our total calls in  
 266 the past 8 years.
- 267 ● We have reduced our hospital transfers by 30% with the regionalization process  
 268 based on zip code with all ambulance services.
- 269 ● Staffing, like most employers in the region, is challenging. We have lack of  
 270 workforce, competition for employees, burnout due to COVID, and lack of affordable  
 271 housing for relocation.
- 272 ● We were selected as statewide vendor for the EMT education program during  
 273 the first year of COVID response paid for by the State.



- 274 • We have added Field Ultrasound units to our primary paramedic units to further  
275 advance the care we deliver.
- 276 • The funding that we receive from municipalities equates to 12%-13% of our  
277 operating budget.
- 278 • We have redesigned our fleet to improve responder safety and efficiency,  
279 however, we have to wait 1.5 to 2 years before we can receive the new vehicles which  
280 translates to higher maintenance costs.
- 281 • Due to lack of hospital beds, transporting a patient to where they can receive a  
282 higher level of care is farther away and requires more time.
- 283 • We are adhering to our Spending Policy for the dispersements from our  
284 Investment Fund.

285 *Board questions/comments answered by Mr. Groux:*

286 Mr. Carroll: Are all of the other agencies level funded? Mr. Hurd answered yes, except for the  
287 \$5,000 increase now requested by the John G. McCullough Library and the BCRC went up \$10.

288 Mr. Carroll: Noted that all of the other agencies - except for the McCullough Library - are asking  
289 for level funding and don't have the \$3M endowment that the BRS has and is asking for an  
290 increase of ~\$31K. It would be appropriate that the BRS spend some of that endowment  
291 instead of "putting it on the backs of the people of Bennington". Mr. Groux responded "we're  
292 not opposed to level funding".

293 Ms. Jenkins: What steps are you taking to keep your finances in hand? We have been working  
294 closely with the hospital over the last several months to develop a regionalization model to  
295 make finances work for many rescue squads from Bennington County, Deerfield Valley,  
296 Massachusetts, and New York. In the long run, small services will not survive. BRS is the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
297 largest in the State of Vermont. Otherwise, ambulance services become municipal  
298 organizations.

299 Mr. Carroll: Did you give yourself a pay raise this year? Yes, 12%, and all of the other staff  
300 received 15%.

301 Ms. Conner: Can you speak to the impact of having 2 people and an ambulance having to travel  
302 farther for a transfer? Yes, that's why we decreased the number of transfers by 30% - beginning  
303 in September 2021 - so we could increase our availability.

304 Ms. Conner: We just gave 3% and 4% pay increases, so why were the BRS increase percentages  
305 so high? There are different levels of training for an EMT, an advanced EMT, and a Paramedic,  
306 and we had to increase the base rate to get new people to come through the door, which,  
307 increases the other levels. "We can't pay less than what Walmart does."

308 Mr. Carroll: What is the starting pay for a new hire? \$16.00/hour and we pay incentives for  
309 additional training and education. We are currently working with the Community College of  
310 Vermont for scholarship programs and will contact the State, as well.

311 Mr. Lee-Clark: We didn't receive the footnotes. That is an error - they will be sent to you.

312 Mr. Lee-Clark: What research have you done on alternative fueled fleets? No one is building an  
313 electric ambulance yet. They are working on some prototypes now but it would be 4 times the  
314 cost. The trucks we have coming are small and run on gas, not diesel.

315 Mr. Lee-Clark: Questions have been asked - When I call 911, why does an ambulance come  
316 from another town? Part of regionalization is that all of the ambulance companies have mutual  
317 aid and provide backup to each other. And, sometimes, a BRS ambulance may not be able to  
318 respond to a 911 call because they are taking a Bennington resident to another hospital.

319 Mr. Lee-Clark: Suggested that BRS do more community outreach to educate the community on  
320 how things work so that they have a better understanding. Agree.

321 Ms. Conner: Thanked the BRS for their support with the COVID testing. We also did  
322 vaccinations for people that couldn't get out, however, we have had to stop doing those for  
323 now.

324 Mr. Hurd: Are your pay increases for July 2022? No, they happened in July 2021.

325 Mr. Hurd: Has this improved the number of new employees? Improved over pre-COVID, no.  
326 Improved over post-COVID, yes.

327 Mr. Hurd: If you were fully staffed, would that affect your availability in Bennington? It's a  
328 balancing between enough staff and call volume.

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### 330 3. FINALIZE BUDGET

331 ***Tom Haley moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the level funded FY23***  
332 ***allocation to the Bennington Free Library at \$498,000.00. The motion carried with Gary Corey***  
333 ***and Sarah Perrin absent.***

334 Discussion on the John G. McCullough Library requested increase of \$5,000 to \$45,000  
335 as follows:

- 336 • They did request increases with the other municipalities, as well, but if they were  
337 approved is unknown at this time.
- 338 • Ms. Conner suggested to meet them half way with an increase of \$2,500.
- 339 • Mr. Carroll feels that level funding is preferred but agreed with the \$2,500 as a  
340 modest increase.
- 341 • Mr. Lee-Clark agreed.

- 342                   • Ms. Jenkins is concerned about the budget this year and is conflicted - glad that  
343                   they are paying staff for their work and noting that the Bennington Library gave  
344                   their staff increases that were absorbed into their budget. However, if all others  
345                   agreed, she would go along with the \$2,500 increase.

346                   ***Jeanne Conner moved and Bruce Lee-Clark seconded to approve a \$2,500.00 increase***  
347 ***for the John G. McCullough Library FY23 allocation to \$42,500.00. The motion carried with***  
348 ***Gary Corey and Sarah Perrin absent.***

349                   ***Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded to approve the level funded FY23***  
350 ***allocation to the Bennington Rescue Squad at \$206,250.00.***

351                   Mr. Lee-Clark explained that he doesn't know what the answer to the BRS financial  
352                   situation is but the Bennington taxpayers aren't it. It's difficult to approve their requested  
353                   \$30,937.50 increase when they come in and start off by saying they will find this money  
354                   elsewhere and have a \$3.8M endowment.

355                   Mr. Carroll stated that they made \$30,000 last year on their endowment.

356                   Ms. Jenkins would like to see more tangible action on the BRS part to fix what is a long  
357                   term problem.

358                   Ms. Conner noted that there is a point with endowments where you need to stop taking  
359                   from them.

360                   Mr. Lee-Clark agreed, however, BRS is a private organization that needs to deal with this  
361                   and they are not in crisis at this time. The Town does have a significant stake in BRS at  
362                   \$206,250.

363                   ***The motion carried with Gary Corey and Sarah Perrin absent.***

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365                   Other Budget Requests to discuss:

366                   Highway Department - staffing and look into a mechanic position -

- 367                   • Can't see where we can add 2 more positions and it would be helpful to know  
368                   the mechanic's responsibilities.
- 369                   • The mechanic position would be offset by expense savings but this requires  
370                   more research to see just how much so we aren't ready to recommend this position  
371                   now.
- 372                   • We have a very good staff and haven't had any problems replacing those that  
373                   have left, so far.

374                   Police Department - more overtime -

- 375 • Two drivers here are being short staffed - down 3 - and more events planned by  
376 the BBC that we are not reimbursed for.
- 377 • We may need to have a conversation with the BBC on ways to reinstitute the  
378 reimbursement they used to pay.
- 379 • We budget as if we are fully staffed, so if we are down in staff, the Salary line  
380 item will cover the additional amount in the Overtime line item.
- 381 • We should not reduce the existing Overtime line item or add to it.

382 Police Department - 2 ATV's -

- 383 • There has been an increase in the use and abuse of our lands at Sucker Pond.  
384 • We need to be able to access the lands at Sucker Pond, as well as, Headwaters  
385 Park.  
386 • They also serve as remote access to help someone that may be in distress.

387 Mr. Corey - can we reduce the 5% increase?

- 388 • Perhaps ARPA funds and an increase in the Grand List could help.  
389 • It has been a very difficult year mostly due to materials and costs.  
390 • The impact that inflation has had just over the last 4 months has been  
391 "incredible".
- 392 • The Highway Fund doesn't include any grant funds that may be available to us.  
393 • The budgets that we are approving in January are "worst case scenarios" of  
394 where we may be when we actually set the tax rate.  
395 • Historically we have been able to reduce the budgets when we set the tax rate.  
396 • Class 2 ineligible projects may be able to be swapped out for projects that are  
397 eligible.

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399 ***At 1:02pm, Bruce Lee-Clark moved and Jim Carroll seconded the adjournment of the***  
400 ***meeting. The motion carried with Gary Corey and Sarah Perrin absent.***

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404

405 Respectfully submitted,

406 Nancy H. Lively

407 Secretary