



## Office of Board of Selectmen

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**Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Belmont Mill**  
**Corner Meeting House Room**

Present were TA Alicia Jipson, Assessing Administrator Colleen Akerman, Selectmen's Representative Ruth Mooney, Chairman Ron Mitchell, Vice Chair Tracey LeClair, Members Albert Akerstrom, Mark Roberts, Jessica Fleck, Justin Borden, Marc Zimmerman and Kevin Sturgeon. Via Zoom were Parks & Rec Director Danielle St. Onge, and Library Director Eileen Gilbert. Also present was Don Simpson of the Sunray Shores Water District.

Absent: Members Marsha Campbell, Bob Chapman and Fred Wells.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

#### **01/02/2024:**

Member Kevin Sturgeon asked that a clarification be made regarding some of his comments at the 01/02/2024 meeting. He would like to note that he asked if the Town ever went to a Default Budget and Chairman Ron Mitchell answered no. His point is that the taxpayers have supported the Budget Committee and the Selectmen every year. He also clarified that his concerns about the number of Budget Committee members was because he has observed that it is hard to fill seats and we will need five more people next year. He will not be running next year. He thought about doing a petition to decrease the membership but did not.

*Vice Chair Tracey LeClair moved the minutes of the meeting held on January 2, 2024 as written; seconded by Marc Zimmerman. The motion passed unopposed (9-0).*

### **Public Hearing on 2024 Proposed Budget for Town of Belmont and Sunray Shores Water District:**

The Chairman opened the public hearing at 6:34 pm.

Chairman Mitchell explained that the Budget Committee reviews and votes on the Sunray Shores Water District budget but the Budget Committee has no oversight on how they operate. This process is necessary to ensure that Districts comply with State regulations.

T. LeClair reviewed the 2024 proposed Sunray Shores Budget:

General Government \$ 5,512  
Highways & Streets \$ 9,525  
Water Distribution & Treatment \$ 34,879  
Operating Transfers Out \$ 49,916

Member M. Zimmerman asked for clarification that the Budget Committee has no input on this. Chairman Mitchell stated this is a private water system and we only need to oversee the budget.

President of the Sunray Shores Water District, Don Simpson, explained some of the history. Previously the water district was an association supplying water to camps. They decided to get a grant from the federal government to be a water district and become eligible to borrow money and get grants from the State. They follow the RSAs like the Town does. They submit their budget through the NHDR portal just like the Town does. None of the Town's money goes into this private water district; it is funded by the people who are in the water district. They have multiple wells and 98 homes on the system.

There is a special warrant article for \$1,924,000 that includes a large grant to upgrade their water system.

*T. LeClair moved to approve the 2024 Sunray Shores Water District proposed budget of \$1,973,916. The motion was seconded by Ruth Mooney and passed unopposed (9-0).*

T. LeClair reviewed the 2024 MS-737 for the 2024 Town of Belmont proposed budget:

Estimated Appropriations:

General Government \$2,383,410  
Public Safety \$5,131,707  
Highways & Streets \$1,373,430 (Bridges will be covered in a warrant article.)  
Sanitation \$706,384  
Health \$70,891  
Welfare \$199,670  
Culture & Recreation \$458,310  
Conservation & Development \$22,086  
Debt Service \$307,265  
Capital Outlay \$20,000

Total Operating Budget Appropriations \$10,673,153.

Special Warrant Articles for Fire, Other Culture & Recreation, Special Revenue Funds, Sewer & Water Proprietary Funds, Capital Reserve Funds and Expendable Trusts are proposed at \$2,871,822. The Capital Reserve Funds include: Highway Reconstruction, Municipal

Facilities, Water System Repair & Maintenance, Sewer System Repair & Maintenance, Heavy Equipment, Bridge Repair & Maintenance, Property Revaluation, Library Building, Information Technology, Durrell Mountain Road, Dry Hydrant & Cistern Maintenance.

The proposed Individual Warrant Articles include Public Safety Employees Unions for Police, Fire and Public Works proposed at \$712,907.

The proposed Revenues include:

- Taxes \$162,000
- Licenses, Permits & Fees \$1,765,000
- State Sources \$900,752
- Charges for Services \$424,500
- Miscellaneous Revenue \$257,000
- Interfund Transfers In \$1,283,555
- Other Financing Services \$146,267

Total Estimated Revenues & Credits \$4,939,074

M. Zimmerman asked why there are no variances between the Budget Committee numbers and the Board of Selectmen's numbers. The process was explained that the department heads work on their budgets and meet with the Board of Selectmen, and sometimes they go back and rework their budgets based on the Board's recommendations. After that, the department heads present to the Budget Committee and if they are not happy, they will request adjustments and come back to realign things. If it goes to the voters with a difference in the Board's and Committee's recommendations, voters usually take the Budget Committee's recommendation. The two groups try to work in unison. M. Zimmerman asked when the Board and the Budget Committee discuss the Budget. R. Mooney is the Board of Selectmen's representative to the Budget Committee. The two groups do not meet, but communicate through the Board's rep. R. Mooney can answer questions and provide more details if there is any disagreement. Sometimes she will go back to the Board with something and then bring it back to the Committee again. It is more harmonious if everyone can come to an agreement. Department heads present their budgets to the Committee so that if there is a problem or a cut, they can defend or justify their budget.

T. LeClair stated the Budget Summary shows Estimated Taxes to be Raised of \$9,318,808.

There were no questions from the public.

The Chairman closed the public hearing at 7:01 pm.

TA Alicia Jipson will email all members when the documents are ready to be signed at Town Hall. They then become part of the ballot. There could be changes made at the Town

Deliberative Session on February 3, 2024 at 10:00 am at Belmont High School. Members are encourage to attend and see the next part of the process.

The School District's Budget Hearing in Belmont is 01/10/2024 at Belmont Middle School.

**Candidacy:**

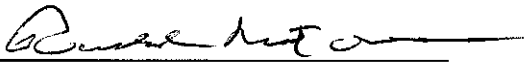
Any Budget Committee members who are up for re-election need to sign up with the Town Clerk's office between January 24, 2024 and February 2, 2024 in order to be on the ballot in March.

**Other Business:** None


**Second Public Hearing:** There will be no additional public hearing necessary.

**Adjournment:**

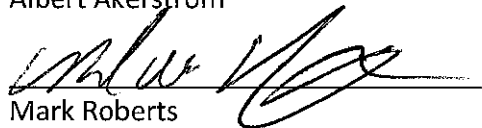
T. LeClair moved to adjourn at 7:12 pm; seconded by K. Sturgeon. The motion passed unopposed (9-0).

  
Chairman Ron Mitchell

  
Vice Chair Tracey LeClair


  
Albert Akerstrom

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Selectman Ruth Mooney

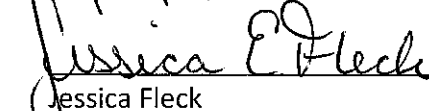
  
Mark Roberts

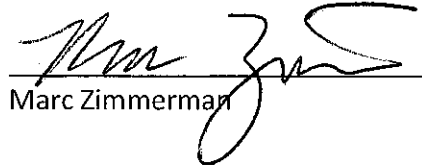
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Justin Borden

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Chapman

  
Marsha Campbell

  
Fred Wells

  
Jessica Fleck

  
Marc Zimmerman

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Kevin Sturgeon