

**Minutes for a Ticonderoga Budget Workshop held on October 19, 2023,  
commencing at 1:00 p.m. with any other Lawful Business**

**Present:** Mark Wright, Supervisor  
Dave Woods, Councilman  
Joyce Cooper, Councilwoman (arrived 10 minutes later)  
Tom Thatcher, Councilman  
Tom Cunningham, Councilman  
Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk

**Others:** Rebecca Norton and Amy Beeman from the Finance Department

Supervisor Wright opened the Workshop and discussion followed as per the agenda below. Resolutions were brought for changes to the 2024 Tentative budget.

Police

**Resolution #428-2023** brought by Tom Cunningham, seconded by Tom Thatcher to change Account #A.3120.467 in the 2024 Tentative Budget and increase it to \$5,560.00. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Tom Cunningham – Aye. **Opposed** – none. Joyce Cooper – Absent. **Carried.**

**Resolution #429-2023** brought by Tom Thatcher, seconded by Dave Woods to change Account #A.3120.477 in the 2024 Tentative Budget and increase it to \$6,500.00. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Tom Cunningham – Aye. **Opposed** – none. Joyce Cooper – Absent. **Carried.**

Finance

**Resolution #430-2023** brought by Tom Cunningham, seconded by Tom Thatcher to change Account #A.1310.492 in the 2024 Tentative Budget and increase it to \$39,000.00. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Tom Cunningham – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

**Resolution #431-2023** brought by Dave Woods, seconded by Tom Thatcher to change Account #A.9040.840 in the 2024 Tentative Budget and increase it to \$38,476.00. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Tom Cunningham – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

**Resolution #432-2023** brought by Tom Cunningham, seconded by Tom Thatcher to change Account #DA.9040.840 in the 2024 Tentative Budget and increase it to \$30,144.00. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Tom Cunningham – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

**Resolution #433-2023** brought by Tom Thatcher, seconded by Joyce Cooper to change Account #SS05.9040.840 in the 2024 Tentative Budget and increase it to \$13,629.00. **All in Favor** Mark

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Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Tom Cunningham – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

**Resolution #434-2023** brought by Tom Thatcher, seconded by Dave Woods to change Account #SW06.9040.840 in the 2024 Tentative Budget and increase it to \$12,949.00. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Tom Cunningham – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

Litigation

**Resolution #435-2023** brought by Tom Cunningham, seconded by Tom Thatcher to change Account #A.1420.491 in the 2024 Tentative Budget and increase it to \$100,000.00. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Tom Cunningham – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

Library

**Resolution #436-2023** brought by Tom Cunningham, seconded by Dave Woods to change Account #A.7410.412 in the 2024 Tentative Budget and decrease it to zero. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Tom Cunningham – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

Other Lawful Business

Discussion on the Zoning Change for Montcalm Street Commercial District (continued from the October Town Board Meeting).

**Resolution #437-2023** brought by Mark Wright, seconded by Dave Woods to refer the Zoning Boundary Line changes for the Commercial District in Ticonderoga to the Ticonderoga Planning and Zoning Board for their review and recommendation. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Tom Cunningham – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

**Resolution #438-2023** brought by Tom Cunningham, seconded by Tom Thatcher to exit the Budget Workshop with any other Lawful business at 2:09 p.m. and enter into an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Tom Cunningham – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

**Resolution #439-2023** brought by Mark Wright, seconded by Dave Woods to exit out of the Executive Session with no decisions being made at 2:17 p.m. and re-enter the Budget Workshop and any other Lawful business. **All in Favor** Mark Wright – Aye, Dave Woods – Aye, Joyce Cooper – Aye, Tom Thatcher – Aye, Tom Cunningham – Aye. **Opposed** – none. **Carried.**

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Councilman Cunningham announced that he will be cancelling the next Municipal Facility Evaluation Committee meeting on Monday, October 23, while we are waiting for more information to come in for discussion.

Meeting closed at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk

**AGENDA  
Budget Working Group**

Workshop #7: 10/19/2023 1300-1500 Workshop #8: 10/25/2023 0800-1000
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**Budget Workshop #7** (10/19/2023)

- **Corrections Going into Tentative**
  - Last minute Heath plan adjustments arrived - affected final tentative budget before submission.
    - 4 staff went to buyout (PD, Water, Sewer) – decreased overall costs.
    - 1 (PD) went to lower plan cost.
    - Due to water/sewer staff changes, this also affected water/sewer costs, therefore quarterly rates.
    - Water/Sewer rate changes then affect Garage, A Revenues, SW Revenues, SS Revenues.
  - These were all made and incorporated into the tentative budget.
- **Potential Corrections for Preliminary per Resolution**
  - Police
    - Department made significant budget cuts.
    - Missing: increase for taser (\$1800), callyo program (\$2400), and service weapons (\$3K).
    - Adam will forego service weapon upgrade, if necessary, but reluctantly. Not upgraded since Cook was Chief.
    - A3120.467 Proposed increase of \$4200 vs. \$7200 (without weapons upgrade)
  - Financial Advisor
    - A1310.492 Review funds allocated for various tasks.
    - How much is required for these plus Baker Tilly (just charged \$15K for services).
    - Looking into new PD lease vs. build evaluation.
  - Workers' Compensation Participant Share increases
    - 44% increase from 2023 to 2024 (\$65928 to \$ 95,198) due to 2022 settlement.
    - Changes the following lines:
      - A9040 from \$26,474 (tentative) to \$38,476 (preliminary)
      - DA9040 from \$20,742 (tentative) to \$30,144 (preliminary)
      - SS05.9040.840 from \$9,377 (tentative) to \$13,629 (preliminary)
      - SW06.9040.840 from \$8,910 (preliminary) to \$12,949 (preliminary)
- **Senior Budget**

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- Arrived 10/10 – asking for additional \$500 over 2023 budget.
- A7620.499 may require a change if agreed.
- **Litigation**
  - A1420.491 Advise an increase to cover attorney fees.
  - Insurance may cover this, but we will not know until we are served and submit to insurance.
- **Old Chilson Road Storm Repair**
  - Looking like DEC may require a bridge (~\$800K).
  - Essex County and FEMA still working details – potential \$200K local match.
  - Fund through tax or fund balance if town pursues as FEMA project.
- **Library Information – for awareness ONLY**
  - A7410.412 Reduction in \$1000 – no longer need copier funding.
  - Essex also has a library located in town structure.
  - Town only takes care of building.
  - Provides small fund each year to library.
  - There are no town staff working at library.
  - Crown Point does not own the library building. Provides a small sum each year.
  - We pay \$71K in pay + \$28K in benefits for town staff.
- **Tax Cap Discussion Options – Final Call**
  - Critical to always control spending and tax increases to reasonable limits.
  - Option 1: Use fund balance this year only?
    - This is money we can never recover once used.
    - We will still be starting from the same deficit next year.
    - This is not a political issue but a financial issue.
  - Option 2: Do not use fund balance and go forward with exceeding the cap?
    - There is no penalty to the municipality or impact to the resident programs.
    - Need a healthy fund balance for:
      - Any contribution to fund new PD.
      - Fund DRI projects until State reimbursement.
      - Fund other reimbursable projects – water, sewer, airport, Veteran’s Road culvert, La Chute Trail, FEMA, etc. until reimbursement.

**DISCUSSION:** Zoning issue on Montcalm Street.

**RESOLUTION** to enter executive session to discuss matters pertaining to upcoming litigation.