

Town of Wayne, Maine
Agenda for Wayne Budget Committee
Ladd Recreation Center
In Person & Remote
February 27, 2024 6:30 p.m.

Zoom information (if needed):
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5443482874?pwd=eIFXeDcrclFtMHlrMGpHMTN2L3VoQT09&omn=86386116034>

Meeting ID: 544 348 2874

Passcode: 2042842

Approve Minutes for Meeting 1/23/24 and Acknowledge Summary for informal meeting 1/9/24

The timeline approved at the previous meeting for this date "**General Government**", includes: General Administration; Debt Service; Elections; Assessing; Code Enforcement; and Contingency

(1) General Administration:

(2) Debt Service:

(3) Elections:

(4) Assessing:

(5) Code Enforcement: (fees to Readfield, ordinances & mapping)

(6) Contingency: this is a new category even though an occasional topic of conversation over the years. Current Select Board Member Stan Davis sent us the following summary of his own thinking in January:

"I believe that we need an adequate contingency amount for town business. The Select Board has steadily increasing needs for legal advice as everything about government is growing more technical and legally based, and as we continue to have robust citizen advocacy about many issues, so it's hard to predict the needs in that budget line. But, beyond that, it seems to me that we have a steadily increasing number of unanticipated expenses that are of crucial importance-rewriting and codifying ordinances and unplanned building repairs are two examples in 2023-2024. We see increased numbers of extreme weather events as well, leading to expenses. Even if those weather-related expenses are reimbursed through FEMA eventually, they have to be paid for in the moment. I believe the Select Board can be trusted with an adequate contingency reserve to be used for unanticipated expenses. I think **\$100,000 set aside each year in a reserve account for urgent matters or increases in costs would be prudent.**

(7) Other topics? We have heard suggestions of putting aside a sum as a down payment in an account on the proposal to contract for the extension of broad-band to the entire town; funds for a payroll and/or bookkeeping service; a mechanism for code enforcement; an account for collecting and setting aside funds for accumulated vacation and sick leave. Should we consider these and other ideas? And if so, where should we place those items in our schedule for the season?

8) Another topic for consideration: responding to my request, Bruce (Wayne Treasurer) sent the following summary of three matters he thought we the Town should take consider as proposed matters of policy.

"Basically three things:

- a) Change the way the budget document is viewed, if necessary, so that it is an all-inclusive plan for town expenditures for the next year.
- b) Second, have oversight in place to ensure it will be followed, i.e., if there isn't funding in the budget, things don't happen, of course, natural weather-related issues that we cannot predict are excluded.
- c) And third, review town policies and ordinances for fiscal responsibility. Do not have allowances for expenditures that are not funded."

JP thought: it's clear there are some conflicting ideas here, but Bruce's notions seem to be policy matters with common sense at the base.