

**PHIPPSBURG BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2023**

**Attendees:** Budget Committee Members Ed Toombs, Bruce Suppes, Jeff Knuckles, Ed Cherian, Juanita Clark, Michael Winer. Town Administrator Ross McLellan.

**Absent:** Budget Committee Member Ethan DeBery.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Toombs at 5:33 p.m.

The minutes of the 3/7/23 meeting were approved. Vote 6 – 0.

A makeup meeting for the 3/14/23 meeting missed due to weather was scheduled for 3/27/23. The 3/28/23 meeting will be held at the Town Library.

**Fire Department General Fund Request: \$20,000**

Andy Hart, Fire Chief presented the proposed Fire Department General Fund Request, including funds of \$6k for truck repair and \$5k for gear/equipment. Fuel also comes from this fund. Motion made and seconded to recommend approval of the request of \$20,000 for Fire Department General Budget. Vote 6 – 0 in favor.

**Fire Department Operations Fund Request: \$15,000**

Andy Hart, Fire Chief presented the proposed Fire Department Operations Fund Request, including funds for utilities, alarms, oil, and propane. Motion made and seconded to recommend approval of the request of \$15,000 for Fire Department Operations budget. Vote 6 – 0 in favor.

**Fire Department Rescue Capital Fund Request: \$20,000**

Andy Hart, Fire Chief presented the proposed Fire Department Rescue Capital Request. Capital plans include replacing the fire truck with a 3 year old model in 2026, with estimated cost of \$200k. Chief Hart believes the town will receive \$75k from Trust funds, leaving a \$12k shortfall - but Chief Hart believes this will be covered from other sources. The Fire Department Rescue Capital Fund benefits from an independent perpetual trust operating from Bath Savings. The trust has earned approximately \$70-80k annually, in recent years, and must be spent to benefit the Fire Department. The Fire Department utilizes these distributions towards student scholarships, assisting Midcoast Hospital with paramedic costs, and typically provides \$25k towards the Fire Department Rescue Capital Fund. Motion was made and seconded to recommend funding at \$30,000, as in prior year. Vote 4 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstain.

**Rescue Fund Request: \$28,000**

Lorana Pierce, Rescue Chief, presented the proposed Rescue Fund Request. Jeffrey Knuckles asked if additional funds would improve training. Chief Pierce responded that additional funds would not be needed. Motion made and seconded to recommend approval of the request of \$28,000 for Rescue budget. Vote 6 – 0 in favor.

**Road Capital Fund Request: \$650,000**

Gordon Carrolton, Road Committee Chair, presented the proposed Road Capital Fund Request, which is level to the prior year. The Cox Head Redesign and West Point Road projects have both been pushed out. Estimates for the Parker Head Road project (already pushed out a year), have increased surprisingly, but the project will be delayed another year. Mr. Carrolton also discussed the Fiddlers Reach paving overlay and Sam Day Hill Road alternatives. Jeff Knuckles asked what other federal or state moneys were available and Ross McLellan responded that the Maine provides \$20-30k towards Rt 209 maintenance. Jeff Knuckles asked if the budget shouldn't be increased. Chairman Toombs expressed comfort with remaining at the \$650,000 level despite increasing cost projections since projects continue to be pushed out due to unavailability of contractors and the potential that costs may recede in future years when the labor supply/demand

equation improves. Motion made and seconded to recommend approval of the request of \$650,000 for Road Capital budget. Vote 6 – 0 in favor.

**General Road Fund Request: \$80,000**

Curtis Doughty, Road Commissioner, presented the proposed General Road Fund Request, explaining that recent projects have largely required patching and grading of soft roads and necessary tree cuttings. Motion made and seconded to recommend approval of the request of \$80,000 for General Road budget. Vote 6 – 0 in favor.

**Tar Fund Request: \$30,000**

Curtis Doughty, Road Commissioner, presented the proposed Tar Fund Request. Motion made and seconded to recommend approval of the request of \$30,000 for Tar Fund budget. Vote 6 – 0 in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Michael Winer, CPA  
Secretary