

**Rindge Budget Advisory Committee**  
**MINUTES**  
**November 21, 2024**

**PRESENT**

Budget Advisory Members: Phil Motta, Roberta Oeser, Tina Sbrega, Bob Hamilton (Ex-officio), Dan Whitney, Casey Burrage, James Burger

Also attending: Tom Coneys

Phil called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance at 7:03 pm

Dan made a motion to approve the minutes with one change (Tina was NOT present). Second by James. Vote 6-0-1. Tina abstained.

Dan wanted to go over the Fire Department numbers and what changed. Also discussed the ambulance cost. Also discussed the need for an agreement with the ambulance as Jaffrey has. Roberta thought the amount should have some correlation to the number of calls and income from each town.

Roberta had a number of recommendations on reducing the budget. She said that the budget for the code enforcement and assessing clerk when it was one position was only \$21k for 21/2 days a week and thought that both should be reduced. Her recommendations are: Code enforcement \$15k, assessing clerk \$15k, Executive staff development-no increase, mileage-no increase since the Rec truck will be used by Code Enforcement, Town office staff development-no increase, and mileage reduced to \$150, Planning she wants to move \$100 from Staff development to Contracted services so the line is not zero, Police to have overtime remain flat since there is now a fully staffed department ( will discuss with the Chief). She also questioned the amount for succession in the Fire Department and thought it could be less. Casey disagreed. Another suggestion was to have more of the Rec Department revolving fund use to cover more of the Sport Coordinator wage line. Also, the \$300 for Halloween was not removed. Although it is up to the BOS, she thought that perhaps in order to have the budget pass and protect the employees step raises that the COLA should be reduced to at least 2.5% which would save \$35k. There was discussion about reducing it to 2% which would save another \$35k. She was hoping to be able to get the budget down to \$5,650,000 which is \$200k more than default. The one item not included is the ambulance increase.

Bob brought up the Town office budget and thought the numbers were off because the Executive Secretary is now part-time. Roberta said that would make a large reduction in the budget due to health insurance and retirement. Will try to find out tomorrow.

Discussed the fact that the BAC is supposed to have a recommendation for the BOS on Dec 4, but as we do not have a current budget after the changes from Wednesday's meeting, it is not feasible. Phil will find out if the BOS is meeting on Dec 11 and schedule a meeting prior to that for us to finalize recommendation.

Adjourned at 9:05 pm.

/Roberta Oeser