

**Minutes**  
**Joint Budget Workshop**  
**Bar Harbor Town Council/Warrant Committee**  
**February 3, 2022**

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 6:05 pm by Zoom webinar  
In attendance were **Councilors** Jefferson Dobbs, Matthew Hochman, Valerie Peacock, Gary Friedmann, Joe Minutolo (arrived after initial roll call), Erin Cough, Jill Goldthwait; and **Warrant Committee members** J. Berberian, B. Chaplin, C. Chappell, C. Cough, K. DesVeaux, M. Kelly, S. Libby, L. Lopez, B. Reece, C. Ryan, A. Sasner, E. Sassaman, C. Smith, K. St. Germain, J. Young (arrived after initial roll call); Town Manager Kevin Sutherland and Finance Director Sarah Gilbert.

II. **MOTIONS FOR ADJUSTMENTS** on General Government cost center budgets and agency requests presented January 27.

Ms. Cough, with second by Ms. Peacock, moved to increase Cooperating Agencies/Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County from \$676 to \$1,500. Jody Wolford-Tucker of Hospice Volunteers explained the reasons for the requested increase and answered questions. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs            Y  
Hochman       Y  
Peacock        Y  
Friedmann     Y  
Minutolo       Y  
Goldthwait    Y  
Cough           Y  
Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Goldthwait moved to increase Cooperating Agencies/Mount Desert Nursing Association from \$5,359 to \$8,000. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Ms. Cough, with second by Ms. Peacock, moved to fund Cooperating Agencies at the FY22 level, except for Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County. Following discussion, Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs            Y  
Hochman       Y  
Peacock        Y  
Friedmann     Y  
Minutolo       Y  
Goldthwait    Y  
Cough           Y  
Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Cough, with second by Mr. Minutolo, moved to decrease Legal Counsel, account 1018-5340, from \$50,000 to \$40,000. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs            N  
Hochman        N  
Peacock        N  
Friedmann     N  
Minutolo       N  
Goldthwait    N  
Cough           Y  
Motion failed 1-6.

Ms. Cough moved to decrease Town Office – Telephone/Cellular, account 1026-5528, from \$12,000 to \$10,000. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Ms. Cough, with second by Mr. Hochman, moved to decrease Employee Benefits – MEPEERS, account 1028-5210, from \$342,650 to \$300,000.

Ms. Goldthwait stated that as a former state legislator, she is covered by MEPEERS. The sense of Council was that she did not need to be recused.

Mr. Minutolo asked to be recused due to his relationship with a town staff member. Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to recuse Councilor Minutolo due to the appearance of a conflict of interest. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs            Y  
Hochman        Y  
Peacock        Y  
Goldthwait    Y  
Cough           Y  
Motion passed 5-0. (Councilor Friedmann's connection to the meeting was interrupted.)

Following discussion, Roll Call Vote on the main motion:

Dobbs            N  
Hochman        N  
Peacock        N  
Friedmann     N  
Goldthwait    N  
Cough           N  
Motion failed 1-6.

Mr. Friedmann, with second by Mr. Hochman, moved to keep the total tax increase to COLA (5.9%) plus 2.0% for Service Enhancements = 7.9% total. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs            N  
Hochman        N

Peacock \_\_\_\_\_ N  
Friedmann \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Minutolo \_\_\_\_\_ N  
Goldthwait \_\_\_\_\_ N  
Cough \_\_\_\_\_ N  
Motion failed 1-6.

Mr. Friedmann, with second by Ms. Goldthwait, moved to decrease Parks & Recreation – Village Holiday Decorations, account 1059-5932, from \$9,270 to \$6,000. Alf Anderson of the Chamber of Commerce participated in the discussion. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs \_\_\_\_\_ N  
Hochman \_\_\_\_\_ N  
Peacock \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Friedmann \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Minutolo \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Goldthwait \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Cough \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Motion passed 5-2.

Mr. Friedmann, with second by Mr. Hochman, moved to decrease Parks & Recreation – Seaside Cinema, account 1059-5933, from \$3,000 to \$1,500. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs \_\_\_\_\_ N  
Hochman \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Peacock \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Friedmann \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Minutolo \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Goldthwait \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Cough \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Motion passed 6-1.

Mr. Friedmann, with second by Ms. Peacock, moved to decrease Town Manager – Communications Coordinator, account 1012-5100, to \$32,500. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs \_\_\_\_\_ N  
Hochman \_\_\_\_\_ N  
Peacock \_\_\_\_\_ N  
Friedmann \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Minutolo \_\_\_\_\_ N  
Goldthwait \_\_\_\_\_ N  
Cough \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
Motion failed 2-5.

III. **BUDGET COST CENTER PRESENTATIONS AND Q&A**

A. **Public Works Director's Department**—Public Works Director Bethany Leavitt gave an overview of the department's work and budget and answered questions.

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**—Mr. Hochman, with second by Ms. Cough, moved to adjourn at 9:07 p.m. Roll Call Vote:

Dobbs            Y  
Hochman       Y  
Peacock       Y  
Friedmann    Y  
Minutolo      Y  
Goldthwait   Y  
Cough         Y  
Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Libby declared the Warrant Committee adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

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Elizabeth Graves, Town Clerk