

Special Selectboard Budget Meeting  
15 January 2025  
6:00 PM  
Town Office at Isle La Motte School and via Zoom

In Attendance: Peter Brzozowy (via Zoom), Mary-Catherine Graziano (via Zoom), Cary Sandvig, Joe Deller, Pat Treckman, Mary LaBrecque, Cathy Tudhope, Karen Brunner, Barbara Callahan, Andrew Whipple (via Zoom), Michael Simanskas (via Zoom), Kathy Simanskas (via Zoom), Steve Mank (via Zoom), and others who did not provide full names on Zoom or sign the attendee sheet

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Selectboard Chair Peter Brzozowy.
2. **Additions to Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda.
3. **2025 Budget**
  - *Departmental Budget Reviews*
    - Recreation Department - Ruth Casey reviewed the \$3,000 appropriation request submitted by the Department for the upcoming year which included estimates for work to address items remaining active following the 2024 insurance inspection, park sports equipment, and an allowance for activities. The Selectboard confirmed that major or recurring work, such as playground repairs/upgrades and mowing, would be a Town expense, while equipment and supplies will fall to the Recreation budget. Co-Chair Casey also advised the Selectboard that paving of the Veterans Park parking lot would be welcome the next time a large paving project is scheduled on the Island if the budget exists to do so.
    - Cemetery Commission - Cathy Tudhope was present to review the appropriation request, which included \$6,000 for mowing expenses, \$990 for Cemetery Commissioner stipends, and \$4,000 for upkeep of the plots. Commissioner Tudhope is reconciling the bank accounts and will provide a current checking account balance to the Selectboard in the coming days, as well as advise on the total amount invested in a certificate of deposit. These balances will be considered prior to approving the funding allocated to the upkeep of the cemeteries.
    - Board of Listers - Chair Mary LaBrecque requested that the hourly rate for the three Listers be raised to \$20.00 to bring the rate in line with other Town employees for a position that requires a significant level of ongoing education and training. Steve Mank supported the request, as the Town's income is completely reliant on appraisal accuracy. As well, a tablet for the team was requested which will drastically improve productivity allowing the Listers to modify drawings and update property conditions while onsite.
  - *General Fund Revenues & Expenses Review*
    - Appropriation Request Reviews - Fire Department, community organizations - The Isle La Motte Volunteer Fire Department has submitted an appropriation request equal to that of 2024 in the amount of \$43,000.
    - Budget File Organization - The Treasurers will review the categorization of line items and work to improve the streamlining of the budget spreadsheet. The Selectboard would like to see some of the expenses still separated, to understand how much is being spent in each location or by department, such as mowing.
    - Appropriations - A discussion of community appropriations was held, highlighting groups that have the most impact in Isle La Motte. Funding of appropriations is a minor percentage of the entire budget, and will be revisited following the completion of budgets for education and roadwork, which have the most significant impact on property taxes.
  - *Highway Fund Revenues & Expenses Review* - The Selectboard reviewed the grants that are anticipated in 2025, and will plan to include the match for a possible paving grant. As the expense for paving of roads is in the millions of dollars, grants are required for this work; expenses for the maintenance of existing roads will fall to the annual budget including patching and erosion control. A line by line review of the expenses followed, and a plan was made to flat fund and budget to the 2024 actual or budget expenses. Key discussions included proper funding of grants for the 2025 culvert work already committed, increased funding for road patching/repairs including potholes and cracks on all roads, chloride treatment for roads, and grading. An increase will be made to tree trimming in the following year, with the increase to be offset by savings in other line items. Cleaning of road culverts was also discussed and will be added as a new line item. Estimates or additional information for open items will be obtained over the next week for review at the next budget meeting.

4. **Other Business:**

- *Town Flags* - Andrew Whipple advised the Selectboard that the Town flag project would continue to be maintained by the Isle La Motte Community Organization (ILMCO) in 2025 and that no funding would be requested from the Selectboard this year. The Board recognized the efforts of ILMCO and thanked them for their work.
- *2025 Island Events* - The 100th anniversary of the Isle La Motte Historical Society and a rededication of Burying Yard Point will take place in 2025. Barbara Callahan has requested that the Town consider funding the expense for the fabrication of a new Island entrance sign at the causeway, estimates for which will be shared with the Selectboard for consideration as a part of the budgeting for the year. This will be discussed at the meeting scheduled for January 22, 2025.

5. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM, motioned by Pat Treckman, seconded by Cary Sandvig, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted on 17 January 2025 -  
Andrea Carbone

Peter Brzozowy, *Chair*

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Mary-Catherine Graziano

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Cary Sandvig

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Joe Deller

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Pat Treckman

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