

Special Selectboard Budget Meeting  
26 January 2025  
1:00 PM  
Town Office at Isle La Motte School and via Zoom

In Attendance: Peter Brzozowy, Mary-Catherine Graziano, Cary Sandvig, Joe Deller (via Zoom), Pat Treckman, Mary LaBrecque (via Zoom), Steve Mank (via Zoom), Charles Gurney (via Zoom), Andrew Whipple (via Zoom)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM by Selectboard Chair Peter Brzozowy.
2. **Additions to Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda, but Pat Treckman requested a discussion of the dedication, which had previously been omitted. The Board also confirmed the image for the cover of the Town Report.
3. **2025 Budget**
  - *Budget Discussion*
    - Highway - The Board reviewed the latest version of the budget following updates made at the meeting on Friday, January 24. The surplus associated with the Highway Fund in 2023 was discussed, as was the total grant money received by the Town in calendar year 2024; both numbers will impact the 2024 surplus. Considerable time was spent reviewing Highway to ensure the year over year budget increases were in line with expectations, as the overall expense reflects a marked increase. An increase in road maintenance is necessary, as is roadside tree trimming, as expenditures in these areas have been deferred for too many years. Robin Martin, the new Road Commissioner, agrees with the Selectboard that inflation and the cost of labor are contributing factors, but is aware that the taxpayers will find the increases concerning, to which all agreed will need to be clearly communicated to justify the increases at the informational Town Meeting.
    - Recreation Department and Board of Listers - The accounting for these two departments was discussed, as both are currently treated as funds. A reconfiguring of the spreadsheet will be made to better reflect transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Lister Fund.
    - Appropriations - It was determined, citing fiscal responsibility, that organizations who had not formally requested funding in the upcoming year would not be budgeted for an appropriation in 2025.
    - Loan Repayment to Trustees of Public Funds - An estimate for interest due on the loan repayment was made and added to the budget.
    - Surplus Funds - A discussion was held regarding surplus funds, including use towards reducing taxes, adding to the capital projects fund, or to begin saving for a new project to be determined. The funds could also be directed to the reappraisal account, which will cost in excess of \$100,000 when conducted. The Board will consider adding an article to the ballot this year which would allocate a portion of the surplus to the reappraisal.
    - Budget Status - At the completion of the day's discussion, the budget for the current year reflects a 6.9% increase in the General Fund and a 14% increase in the Highway Fund versus the 2024 budget.
  - *Town Report* - The Board reviewed the status of the Town Report in advance of issuing the draft to the publisher on Monday. As requested, a discussion of the dedication was held and it was decided to include the page as included in the draft. There are page allowances for the audit and school budget, the latter of which is expected prior to the proof submission. After a discussion, it was confirmed that the Isle La Motte volunteer organizations, including the Library and Fire Company, would be included in the bound report and not the addendum.
  - *Additional Discussions* - The Selectboard continued the discussion of line items that required a second look including land records preservation and digitization allowances. Andrew Whipple thanked the Town Officials for their work on the budget and suggested including a discussion of the impact of inflation on the overall budget during the upcoming Town Meeting.
4. **Other Business:** The Selectboard will next meet on Wednesday, January 29 at 6:00 PM to discuss the budget as it stands following today's updates.
5. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 PM, motioned by Cary Sandvig, seconded by Pat Treckman, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted on 30 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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