Budget Advisory Committee Meeting – February 13, 2023 Called to order at 4:04
Attendees: Management - Ron Beard, Judy Kinney, Linda Brookner,
Committee Members – Mark Canfield, Ned McElroy, Dave Spinney, Denise Bujalski
Zoom – Maureen Patti

Mr. Canfield called the meeting to order at 4:04 and asked for a minute taker. Ms. Bujalski volunteered. Reading of the February 2, 2023 minutes was waived; Mr. McElroy motioned to accept the minutes as written, Ms. Bujalski seconded, and the motion carried.

The committee moved to analysis of the latest budget as presented by staff. Mr. Beard and Mr. Spinney spent many hours working to lower the deficit and it is now projected at $160,792. This was achieved mostly by removing funding for capital improvement and trimming basic municipal services and building repairs to bare minimum. Culture and recreation remains roughly 45% of the annual budget.

The committee expressed concern that we are again pushing out the needed repairs to our municipal buildings, roads, and water which are the basic services a municipality is tasked to provide. Historically, the recreation portion of the budget has not been able to pay for itself and the difference has been picked up by the taxpayers. The sustainability of this approach is felt to be unsustainable.

Because of the length of the meeting, Mr. Canfield asked committee members to send him our comments and he will produce a written Advisory Committee opinion on the budget that will be presented to the commissioners. The final vote on the budget will be tallied at the next meeting February 20, 2023 (scheduled after the close of this meeting). The meeting was adjourned at 6:23.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Bujalski