Budget Advisory Committee Meeting – October 21, 2024 Called to order at 4:00 p.m.
Attendees: Management - Ron Beard, Steve Baert
Committee Members – Mark Canfield, Dave Spinney, Denise Bujalski, Bill Mitchell
Zoom: Heidi Davis (MRI), Nancy Seward, Linda Ivers

Roll call was done and quorum established. The minutes from 10/14/24 were discussed and amendments were proposed regarding addition of estimated costs for purchase of equipment for the water department. Mr. Canfield motioned to amend the minutes as discussed and was seconded by Mr. Spinney. All agreed. Mr. Spinney motioned to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, and all agreed.

The 2025 water budget proposal was then reviewed. Mr. Canfield noted there was a 24% decrease over the 2024 budget. Mr. Spinney stated that this was mainly because the costs associated with the Pegwood project will not be included in the 2025 budget as it is completed. The overall 2025 budget proposal has a $9,000 decrease. Minor adjustments upward were suggested totaling $4,500.

Mr. Canfield discussed the opinion the committee would make to the commissioners for the upcoming water rate setting meeting to include the suggested budget line adjustments, the fact the water department saved money overall in 2024, and that the committee has a high level of confidence on how the water department is managed. Mr. Canfield volunteered to write the opinion.

The committee moved on to the roads portion of the budget. Mr. Baert answered questions on some of the variances in the 2024 budget and actuals with 83.33% of the total year analyzed. Overall, the roads/highway department is in good shape and Mr. Baert was asked to provide his proposed budget for next week's meeting.

Mr. Mitchell introduced discussion regarding the expenses incurred by the district to provide services and how he thought more collaboration should be pursued by the district with the two town entities. He stressed these thoughts were being made as a homeowner and not as a representative of WEA or the budget committee.

Mr. Canfield opened the meeting to public discussion. Ms. Ivers and Ms. Seward had no questions and thanked the committee for their work. At next week's meeting, Mr. Shawn Pelchat, Building and Maintenance lead, will be in attendance.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Spinney, and all voted to adjourn at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Bujalski