

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF ASSESSORS & BUDGET COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING

Date: April 1, 2025
Time: 4:00 PM
Meeting called to order by: Steve Carr, 1st Assessor

IN ATTENDANCE

Steve Carr, Rodney Varney, Ethna L. Thompson
Evelyn Beaulieu, Sharon Dingfelder, Mickey Haas

ABSENT

Joanne Taylor

OPEN MEETING

Opened meeting at 4:04 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- o **March 18, 2025**

The Boards unanimously approved the meeting minutes as presented.

Continuing Business

- o **Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Proposed**

- **Department Budget Review Continued**

The Board and Budget Committee resumed their review of the proposed department budgets for Fiscal Year 2025–2026. Updates were provided on revised line items based on previously raised questions. The clerk will look into the specifics requiring the Forest Fire account. The Board members suggested really looking into the highway costs as the numbers seemed low.

- **Transfers In/Out**

The committee also reviewed budgetary transfers, including transfers in and out of various accounts. Discussion focused on the proposed transfer of earned revenue into designated special reserve accounts, supporting long-term capital needs and maintaining financial stability.

- **Carry Forwards**

The Board and Budget Committee discussed carryforwards and surplus funds, highlighting a need for clearer differentiation between the two. It was noted that in previous years, all surplus monies were treated as carry forwards, which does not align with the actual definition or intended use of carry forwards. True carry forwards are designated funds intended to be carried forward into the same account for use in the following fiscal year, typically for ongoing or incomplete projects.

Surplus funds, by contrast, represent unexpended balances that should be returned to the general fund or reallocated through formal budgeting or warrant articles—not automatically treated as account-specific carry forwards. The Clerk emphasized the importance of applying this distinction correctly moving forward, both for transparency and for accurate financial planning.

New Business

- **Review Funding Requests (Donations)**

The Boards agreed to revisit the donation request at the next meeting and prepare a recommendation regarding the amount to be allocated, if any.

- **Revenue Projections**

While revenue projections were referenced during the broader budget discussion, they were not reviewed in detail at this meeting.

- **Discuss transition from Net Budgeting to Gross Budgeting**

The Clerk introduced the topic of transitioning from net budgeting to gross budgeting and provided an overview of the differences between the two approaches. It was explained that gross budgeting presents both revenues and expenditures in full, rather than offsetting them, which improves transparency, aligns with best practices, and provides a clearer picture of departmental activity and financial accountability. The Clerk noted that net budgeting can obscure the true scale of both income and spending, which can lead to confusion in public presentation and long-term financial planning. The Clerk will begin working to reflect gross budgeting in upcoming drafts and will provide examples at the next meeting for review and discussion.

Other Business

Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 4:00 PM

Adjourn Meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM