**Tri-Town Beach Commission**

**Thursday, January 19, 2023**

**6:00 PM**

Deerfield Town Hall Conference Room

#

**MINUTES**

Present: Diane Kolakoski, Kenneth Cuddeback, Patricia Pirog, Jonathan Edwards

Absent: Marc Bussiere

Ms. Pirog called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM

**FY 2024 Budget Discussion**

Mr. Cuddeback reviewed the draft FY24 Budget proposals with the commission. The draft proposal shows two models for staffing in the coming summer of 2023. The proposals both call for eleven weeks of operations 8 hours per day (10:00 AM – 6:00 PM). Model one assumes two lifeguards in overlapping five hour shifts that give us coverage for the days when two guards are needed for River Valley Day Camp. The second model only provides for single guard coverage for eight hours per day. Both models assume hours can be shared and guard schedules structured to cover peak hours need with the possibility of some hours each week when no guard is on duty. The budget provides for a lifeguard supervisor who will work a total of 350 hours over the course of the season. Gatekeepers will be scheduled to cover all open hours.

Ken reviewed revenue projections for the coming year based on Gate Receipt totals from the FY22 season. Estimated receipts included pass fees of $50 Resident, $100 Out of Town, $25 Senior, and $20 Day Pass. Also included was $2,000 for River Valley Day Camp and $1,050 rental of the south field for planting by a local farmer. The commission discussed 2022 gate receipts and the possibility of raising the fees for beach use in 2023. The commission agreed to eliminate the senior pass and offer only one $50 resident rate. Ken will update the revenues to reflect this change.

Revenues are projected to offset basic operating expenses in determining final budget requests to the towns of Whately and Deerfield. The proposed budget included $7,395 in expenses. Included in the costs were $625 in costs for a Treasurer and surety bond. The treasurer is no longer required so the expense will be deleted in the final proposal. Ken noted that the management plan being developed will recommend annual treatment for control that should cost about $4,000. This is not in the first draft, but the committee agreed it should be added as an operational expense for the final budget.

Initial budget numbers show $53,597 in total management expenses for the 2-guard model and $45,834 for the 1-guard model. Management expenses do not include an estimated $6,000 to $7,000 to pay for SWCA Environmental’s completion of the environmental permitting process for a management plan to deal with vegetation issues in the pod. The commission agreed that $6,000 should be included in the 2024 budget as a one-time expense to be split 50% each by the two towns. Ken will make the changes to the management expenses on the final budget proposal.

The committee discussed the possibility of Sunderland and/or Hatfield being asked to join the district for future years. Both town’s residents are eligible to use the beach and purchase out of District passes. Sunderland has been approached previously, but the timing did not work out. Jonathan agree to approach the Sunderland Selectboard about joining. Having one or two more towns contributing to the district budget could provide some budget relief for the two towns.

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The committee concluded their discussion of the draft budget presented by Mr. Cuddeback.

*Motion made by Patty Pirog, seconded by Diane Kolakoski to approve the 2-guard draft budget with changes made to gate fees by eliminating the senior rate, by adding $4,000 to operational expenses for treating under the vegetation management plan, by reducing $650 in operational expenses for treasurer expenses, and by adding $6,000 in management expenses for completion of the environmental permitting and vegetation management plan . Motion approved 4-0*

Roll Call Vote

Ken Cuddeback - yes, Diane Kolakoski - yes, Patty Pirog - yes, Jonathan Edwards – yes

**Donation Request**

The commission discussed the possibility of approaching area businesses asking for donations to help replace the raft for the coming season. The old raft is no longer safe and in disrepair. The commission has received proposals for rafts ranging in cost from $7,000 to $12,000. Ms. Pirog and Mr. Edwards suggested reaching out for help with this expense. A letter will be drafted and area businesses will be approached .

**Minutes**

*Motion by Diane Kolakoski, seconded by Patty Pirog to approve the minutes of August 17, 2021, September 8, 2021, February 8, 2022, April 11, 19, and 26, 2022, June 7, 21, and 28, 2022, July 7, 2022, August 2 and 16, 2022, and October 27, 2022 as written. Motion Approved 4-0*

Roll Call Vote

Ken Cuddeback - yes, Diane Kolakoski - yes, Patty Pirog - yes, Jonathan Edwards – yes

**Adjournment**

*Patty Pirog moved to adjourn with Jonathan Edwards seconding. Motion Approved 4-0.*

Roll Call:

Ken Cuddeback - yes, Diane Kolakoski - yes, Patty Pirog - yes, Jonathan Edwards - yes

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kenneth Cuddeback

Attachments:

Draft FY24 Budget Proposal