Budget and Advisory Committee met at 6:00 p.m. to go over final numbers within the proposed 2024-2025 budget.

OAKLAND TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FEBRUARY 28, 2024

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Council Chair Michael Perkins.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call

Michael Perkins, Chair Dana Wrigley Robert Nutting David Groder

Absent: Donald Borman

Others present: Kelly Pinney Michaud, Town Manager Abby Marshall, IT

Janice Porter, Town Clerk Kathleen Paradis, Dep

Town Clerk

Police Chief Rick Stubbert Amy Calder, Sentinel

Reporter

Fire Chief, David Coughlin Anita Chadderton

Harvey Bickford Jon Cox

Nathan Bernier Joanne Bouton

Jim Bouton Ray Gruber

IV. Moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2024, meeting and signing the weekly warrant.

V. Business Agenda:

1. Discussion surrounded the legal opinion from the law office of Bernstein Shur, Matt Tarasevich, regarding emergency services provided by Councilman Groder. The Town Manager read excerpts of an "Opinion regarding Councilor Compatibility" related to the following issue: "Can an Oakland Town Councilor simultaneously serve as an elected Councilor and also work for the Town Fire/Rescue Department as a volunteer, call member of the department?" Findings from the lawyer - it does not appear that Councilor Groder had a "financial interest" in a vote taken earlier which gave the "career staff" at the department, \$1.00 an hour raises. In the instant situation, the Councilor did not vote to increase his own pay or to improve his own financial interests. (Copy of

letter available) Under Section 403 of the Charter nor Maine law does <u>not</u> prohibit him from both serving on the Council and participating in his volunteer activities for the town. Councilor Groder stated that in the future he will discuss, ahead of time, with the members, when there might be a conflict, in an upcoming vote for the department.

Other Business:

- 1. Moved by David Groder seconded by Dana Wrigley and voted 4-0 approving the use of payment processing through Camden Bank known as Avalon. There will be no cost to the town but will provide an opportunity for Oakland taxpayers that wish to pay their taxes and/or sewer bills online. Our office will make this available as soon as possible.
- 2. Moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 4-0 authorizing the town to purchase the vehicle for RSU #18 to be utilized by the School Resource Officer. The school will use grant monies to reimburse the Town of Oakland for the purchase. RSU #18 has agreed to this purchase and to pay the entire cost of an additional officer who will work in all towns within the district.
- 3. Moved by David Groder seconded by Dana Wrigley and voted 4-0 to approve the immediate purchase of replacement sensors for the Fire Station. Councilor Groder stated that this was necessary for the safety of all firemen that work at our station.

Adjournment – Moved by David Groder seconded by Dana Wrigley and voted 4-0 to adjourn at 6:45pm.