Budget Committee Annual Report

This year the budget committee met to review and make recommendations to 44 budgets and 21 warrant articles for the voters of Sandown to review at the Deliberative Session. Meetings were held on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm between October 2022 and January 2023.

Officially, the town's Budget Committee's purpose is "to assist its voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds." This is accomplished by reviewing budget requests for the upcoming year, analyzing revenue, expenditures and trends throughout prior years, and working with department heads towards their goals while ensuring that the budget is affordable. I believe the committee has met this goal to the best of its abilities and hope you will agree.

After the public hearing, **the Budget Committee's 2023 budget proposal is 5,417,910 which is a 8.83% increase over the 2022 budget.** The proposed budget is 439,683 higher than the 2022 budget of 4,978,226. The key drivers in the 2023 budget increase are new town employees and an increase in the highway and recycling budgets, that have been underfunded for the past several years. The hope of the Budget Committee is that these budgets are funded as needed over the next few years.

Funding of the operating budget, which includes the local school district, is accomplished through taxation of property. Allocation of funds raised through taxation in 2022 were as follows:

2022 tax rate per \$1000:

Municipal (town operating):	\$ 5.48	19 %
County:	\$.98	4 %
School:	\$ 20.39	72 %
State:	\$ 1.52	5 %
Total:	\$ 28.37	100 %

It takes many people (department heads, Selectmen, administrative staff, and others) working together to arrive at a fiscally responsible budget proposal. I would like to thank all budget committee members and department heads for working together this year to present a reasonable budget to the voters. The committee would also like to thank Finance Director, Gayle Hamel, Town Administrator Lynne Blaisdell, Cable State Manager Chris Donnellan, Selectmen's Office Assistant Paula Gulla and Town Administrator Assistant Andrea Cairns for their support throughout budget season.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin Sharpe Sandown Budget Committee Vice Chair



