

BUDGET COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

The following are to be considered draft minutes until approved by the Board.

Hearing called to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll was called.

Present: Ken Jacques, Chairman, Leigh Callaway, Darrin Patten, Jeff Milne, B. Manning, Tim Cook, Justin Hastings, Brian Putney and Ex-Officio Tamara Butcher.

Others present: Selectman, Dick Hendl; and Peter Abair, Road Agent;

Minutes of January 28, 2020: Leigh moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Tim and unanimously approved.

Ken noted two weeks ago, the Board agreed they wanted more information from Peter about truck needs for the Highway Department. They confirmed with Peter the current trucks are the smaller (green) truck, a 2015 purchased new in 2015. The big 2006 red dump truck purchased used in 2018, and the 2008 big green dump truck purchased used in 2012.

Dick reported following discussion with Peter about trucks a couple of weeks ago, Whit offered to work with Peter and George to prepare a new versus used analysis. Yesterday at the elections, Peter and Whit were speaking about a truck that had been at an annual truck show, all set up and equipped. The truck listed at 170K and sold at the show for 125K and had discussed the possibility of being able purchase a new truck under similar circumstances Peter stated that happened a couple of years ago. Dick reported at this week's Select Board meeting (Feb 10), Don Hill offered to work with Peter and truck vendors he knows in Maine, to broaden the range for a good used truck at a good price. As it stands now, the Board of Selectmen have approved appropriating \$75,000 in a warrant article, funded from the Unreserved Fund Balance. If another option presented itself, the Select Board could review additional funding through the operating budget. Dick stated, at this moment he stands with the decision made Monday night. The appropriation is based on numbers Peter has. The proposed warrant article would be non-lapsing until 2022. Dick stated the way it is understood now, the odds of the red truck making it through another winter are 50/50. Peter passed around pictures of two used trucks, a 2013 and a 2014 that he has heard of.

B. stated the philosophy when purchasing the little truck new, was to try to find used dump trucks about 5 years old and then running them for ten years. With a non-lapsing warrant article money would be available when considering a truck replacement. Jeff stated a sequence in replacing the fleet makes sense.

B. stated he talked to Pete Lacaillade a little more about the Fire Department truck needs. The Fire Department understands the need to get as much life out of equipment as it can. The Board briefly discussed there will probably be a need to run the debt service out, keeping the number consistent even when in between trucks due to the rising costs of new fire trucks.

The Board reviewed with Peter reconstruction at the end of Nichols Hill Road. Peter has plans to pave Nichols Hill and Cemetery Roads this year. The Board discussed overlapping paving with reconstruction, fixing the grade and making the intersection with 114/Main Street safer. Darrin has spoken with both neighbors at the intersection and has looked at the grades there. Abutter, Alex Moskalenko is agreeable and is willing to work with the town but would like to see site plans before allowing work to proceed. The other abutter Darrin has spoken with did not seem to have an issue. Ken stated if the engineering and reconstruction work can be done in time the paving could happen this year, but if not, it makes sense to put off paving those two roads off until 2021. Paving Cemetery and Nichols Hill Road at the same time, makes sense so the paving crew does not have to set up and take down to only do the short section of Cemetery Road. The Board discussed the possibility of pulling money from paving out of the highway budget to get the reconstruction work done, if needed. This should not be a huge project, and it would be nice to get the problem area taken care of. Peter stated it is likely the culvert will need to be replaced and extended. Darrin has talked to Engineer, Dan Nash about the project. Information will be shared when it becomes available.

Operating Budget:

The Board performed a final review of the proposed operating budget. There was one correction to add \$4,000 to 1-4194-139, non-recurring projects.

Ken reported, Bruce Allen, former Chair of the Conservation Commission has moved out of town. He commended Bruce for his service, knowledge and expertise. Marla Binzel is the new Chairperson. The Commissioners discussed preparing a time table of when to cut town forests. They will be talking to a forester about performing a timber survey.

Ken asked if anyone had thought about Darrin's suggestion regarding converting the 1998 fire truck for highway department use when the time comes. The Board agreed it might be worth investigating the costs to see if it is feasible.

Warrant Article:

The Board reviewed the draft of the 2020 Warrant.

Article 01 Election of Officers.

Article 02 Paving

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of paving. This amount to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance with no amount to be raised through taxation.

The Board discussed the purpose of this article is to pave Shad Hill and TLV Road which were planned for 2019 but not able to be completed due to extenuating circumstances. The money was raised in the 2019 operating budget but has lapsed back to the Unreserved Fund Balance. Following discussion, Darrin moved to recommend this article, seconded by Jeff and unanimously approved.

Article 03 Replace Highway Truck

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 to purchase and equip a truck for the Highway Department. This amount to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance, with no amount to be raised through taxation. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the purchase is complete or by December 31, 2022, whichever is sooner.

The Board reviewed the truck analysis Whit Smith worked with Peter to prepare. The process for a truck purchase was discussed. A suggestion was made for Peter to review a purchase with the Highway Department's Select Board representative and review by the Board of Selectmen. The Select Board is in favor of asking for additional guidance from others knowledgeable about trucks. B. stated it would be a good idea for the highway representative to work closely with Peter in preparing the Capital Improvements Plan. Darrin moved to recommend this article, seconded by Tim and unanimously approved.

Article 04 Old Home Day Expendable Trust

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3, 453.00 to be added to the Old Home Day Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This amount to come from the Unreserved Fund Balance and represents proceeds and donations raised in 2019; with no amount to be raised through taxation.

Leigh moved to recommend this article, seconded by Jeff and unanimously approved.

Article 06 Municipal Operating Budget.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,474,461.00 for general municipal operations. This does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Darrin moved to recommend the operating budget as presented, seconded by Tim and unanimously approved.

Ken thanked everyone involved in this year's budgeting process and commended the Selectmen for a great job on the budget.

At 8:15 p.m. the Board voted unanimously to close the Public Hearing and adjourn the meeting.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant