

BUDGET COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 11, 2018

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

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

The meeting came to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll was called.

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

Also present: Selectmen Dick Hendl, and George McCusker.

Election of Officers: Motion by Jeff Milne, second by Tim Cook, to retain the current officers - Ken Jacques as Chairman, and Justin Hastings as Vice-Chairman. Motion passed.

Discussion and decision regarding 2019 budget sessions. Meetings scheduled for 1/8/19, 1/22/19, 2/5/19, public hearing 2/12/19 and a holdover hearing if needed for 2/18/19.

The Board asked if there were any large expenditures expected. Tamara reported the second boiler at the Meetinghouse needs to be replaced. The work will not likely be done until the lift project is done. The plan is to encumber about \$3,000 for that. Four work stations in the office, two in the police department, plus two police laptops are scheduled for replacement. The Selectboard has agreed to replace all the computers at the same time instead of over a couple of years. They agreed to encumber \$19,500 of 2018 funds for the project.

Ken questioned if any big ticket items are envisioned for 2019. Pete Abair used some of the truck fund to replace the 2003 Freightliner with a 2006 Freightliner. The Selectboard will “recharge” that fund. B. stated it seemed like an appropriate way to have money available throughout the year if a truck becomes available.

The Selectboard has not discussed budgets with department heads.

Grubbing, cutting, and roughing out the road to the sand shed site, and increasing the culvert length is the next step and will be proposed for 2019. The permits are in place. Pete Abair will be asked to work out the details and costs for the project.

Paving proposed for 2019, as discussed at the Capital Improvement Plan meeting, with 2” overlay are Golf Course Road, Twin Lake Villa Road each at \$25,000 and Shad Hill at \$50,000.

Darrin discussed Nichols Hill Road, and suggested the road be moved sideways and the nob taken off the hill to fix the incline and improve the sight distance at the intersection before money is spent for paving the road. Darrin has spoken to Alex Moskalenko, and he is not against having the road moved over on his property, but would want to see what a proposal would be before agreeing to anything.

Ken and Darrin also discussed instead of budgeting a certain amount each year to keep adding overlay to these roads, that there be a long-range plan for more prep work on the roads fixing drainage, removing rocks and replacing culverts, and stabilizing the road beds. In many places, pavement is just keeps getting put over problem areas. Money should be appropriated for that purpose. Ken suggested looking back to see if there is some paving history on the roads.

Ken asked about health insurance costs. Dick explained, Health Trust rates for the current plan increased 10.5%. Due to the increase, the Selectboard agreed to switch to a plan with less coverage, which saves the Town \$125.00 per month per enrollee. The new plan results in deductibles and changes to co-pays, some lower, some higher for the member. The Board agreed to establish a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) health reimbursement account through Health Trust, and give eligible employees \$50.00 a month for single person coverage, and \$100.00 per month for two-person coverage. FSA deductions are tax-free and under IRS laws, an enrollee can roll \$500.00 from one year to the next. The Employee has the option how they want to use the additional money. They are encouraging enrollee's to take advantage of the FSA. There is a tax advantage to pay their out of pocket medical costs with pre-tax dollars

Leigh asked about wage increases. The Selectboard has not discussed wages yet.

Ken noted Peter Abair had spoken to him about a pick-up truck for the highway department to do road checks with and to use to run back and forth for errands and parts. The New London Springfield Water Precinct bought a small Ranger pickup to use like that and they also have to run water samples to Concord every month. Pete currently uses his own truck, and gets paid for mileage. Darrin stated that years ago the highway department purchased a one-ton to plow with and so as not to have to use a big truck to check roads and run errands, and maybe they should go back to a one-ton. He also suggested that since a police cruiser is due to be replaced in 2020, we keep that cruiser for a vehicle the highway department could use and just drive it "into the ground". Tamara stated since the mileage reimbursement in the executive budget are increasing perhaps the vehicle could also be shared to save on that line item.

There was no other business. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant