

BUDGET COMMITTEE

JANUARY 29, 2013

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

This meeting convened at the fire station at 7:00 p.m.

Budget Committee present: B. Manning, Ken Jacques, Jon Poston, George McCusker, Darrin Patten, Jeff Milne, Tim Cook, Bill Huntoon, and John Chiarella, Selectman Representative.

Fire Department members: Peter Lacaillade, Kevin Roberts, Alex Moskalenko, Brian Putney, Erik Rollins and Chris Atkins. Other members were in and out as they carried out their work detail.

Others present: Dick Kipperman, Justin Hastings, Tim Julian, Peter Abair and Brandt Denniston.

Chairman B. Manning called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. stated this meeting was scheduled to meet at the fire station to get an idea as to what the department has for equipment now and what they are working toward. Some online material regarding rescue vehicles was shared and briefly discussed.

Review of equipment:

Tanker 1993 bought new. There have been a few maintenance issues, but as the truck ages, can expect more. Planned replacement is in next 5-7 years.

Engine 2 - 1998. This truck carries ladders and SCBA equipment. To keep this in the vehicle rotation schedule, anticipated replacement is around the 25 years of service.

Engine 3 – purchased new in 2004.

Water quality from the wells that service the building is an issue and causes corrosion of the valves and gaskets on the trucks, requiring them to be replaced from time to time. A water study was done in the past. The fire department tries to refill the trucks from other sources, but that is not always practical.

The rescue vehicle, was purchased by the department, from the Town of Grantham to replace the old cargo (“potato chip”) van. Grantham used the vehicle as an ambulance. It does not have adequate space to carry the tools and equipment now used. There have been ongoing problems with alternators and electrical systems that have required repair and down time for the vehicle. There is a lot of unusable space in the vehicle, equipment has to be carried loosely and cannot be anchored in the vehicle. Due to the nature of emergency response requirements, the department has changed from what it used to be medically. The vehicle no longer meets their needs and has

maintenance issues. Brian stated the department has a dedicated membership of certified people providing medical services. Year by year they have tried to update equipment.

The utility truck is a 1998 Dodge pickup and is used primarily for service calls such as with tree's and wires down or forestry related calls.

The SCBA packs were purchased about 7 years ago through a grant. There are not a lot of grants for replacement. The packs will need to be replaced in about 6 years. B. suggested coordinating with another town when the time comes for replacement for bulk purchasing opportunities and savings.

The radios were purchased 5-6 years ago through a grant. The useful life is about 10 years. The current models will reach a point where they are outdated and won't be able to get replacement parts. The department has been scheduling updates for radio equipment on an annual basis.

B. commended the department for their service, and thanked them for taking the time to show the Budget Committee around. Members adjourned to the town office to continue the meeting.

At 7:50 p.m. the meeting was reopened. Roll was called

Budget Committee present: B. Manning, Chairman; Ken Jacques, Jon Poston, George McCusker, Darrin Patten, Jeff Milne, Tim Cook, Bill Huntoon, and John Chiarella, Selectman Representative.

Others present: Peter Lacaillade, Brian Putney, Alex Moskalenko, Leigh Callaway, Dick Kipperman, Brandt Denniston, Kevin Roberts, Tim Julian and Justin Hastings.

Ken Jacques made a motion, seconded by Jeff Milne to accept the January 15, 2013 minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

John Chiarella reported the Selectmen decided to go with a three-year lease for a cruiser. Tim Julian, Police Chief stated the proposed cruiser is a 2013 Police Interceptor utility style vehicle and would be purchased for \$1.00 at the end of the lease. Tim plans for a 4 year rotation for the cruisers. The price includes the warranty, striping, radios, and lights. The vehicle is delivered all ready to put in service. Ford will buy the old cruiser. The trade-in is not reflected in the pricing but is estimated at only about \$1500.00. The Budget Committee will bring the cruiser up at their next meeting for voting.

John reviewed the other projects:

Selectmen are recommending up to \$19,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance for steeple and windowsill repairs at the Town Hall.

\$65,000 from URFB has been recommended for the highway roof. The Selectmen will try to get estimates and will also go back to Dayco to see if their bid from last year is still relevant.

John stated Ross was contacted about trading the conservation easement area on the highway property. Ross cautioned about the need to cross wetlands to access that area, and recommended more studies if moving the sand shed or swapping the easement is entertained. John stated the existing location should be easy to permit with no anticipated problem with DES. The building proposed by Pete is smaller than the building proposed on the site plan Ross did a few years ago. Discussion: The idea of trading the conservation easement area was suggested so as not to create space limitations by building everything at the existing site. It was suggested that perhaps a build-out plan could be reviewed. The option of repairing the existing shed was discussed. John stated that if shed replacement is approved the next step would be to take Pete's proposed building design to Ross for engineered plans. B. stated the Budget Committee will be looking at this from a perspective of costs. The Selectmen will present a warrant article and the Budget Committee will decide whether to recommend the article or not.

Replacement of the garage roof: Questions were raised whether this type of replacement is the best option. Has there been any money appropriated to address air handling. Jon Poston and Bill Huntoon, having sat in on the building agreed this is probably the best solution to address the problems with this roof. There may still be condensation issues unless something more is done with side walls, but the exact need for further air handling will not be known until the roofing/insulating is addressed.

Rescue truck: The Fire Department is looking for recommendations. B. stated the fire department is doing a superior job, and feels an obligation to support their needs. The concern is where this cost fits in the budget. His feeling is a \$130,000 vehicle is not going to be supported. B. reported he was able to find some used vehicles online that are about 6 years old in the \$45,000 to \$58,000 range. Jon Poston was able to find some information on new vehicles in the \$75,000 to \$80,000 range. John Chiarella stated that is more in line with what the Selectmen would be thinking. Darrin suggested a new vehicle in the \$80,000 range would probably be a better option than something that is all ready 6 years old. B. asked the fire department to take a closer look at these other options to see how they might fit the needs of the department. John asked the department to bring their information back for the Selectmen's meeting on February 11th.

The Unreserved Fund Balance (UFB) and estimated revenue was discussed. John Chiarella stated the Selectmen recommend retaining 10% to 12% in the UFB. Without the UFB they would not be in a position to put the proposed projects forward. The UFB can be used to do these repair projects without having to raise additional money through taxation to do so.

John gave a brief overview of the operating budget. There is an increase in transfer station costs. Leigh will be doing some research into point source recycling. Appropriations within the highway department budget were moved from wages to the blue truck for anticipated expenses related to replacing head gaskets.

The Budget Committee will look at proposed warrant articles and the operating budget at the Public Hearing scheduled for February 12th.

B. will talk to Fire Department members and send any information they may come up with to committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts

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