

BUDGET COMMITTEE

JANUARY 2, 2017

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

Present: Ken Jacques, Justin Hastings, Jeff Milne, Bill Huntoon, Darrin Patten, B. Manning and Ex-Officio, Tamara Butcher.

Selectman Leigh Callaway was also present.

At 7:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order and roll call was taken.

Minutes: Motion by Jeff to approve the December 5, 2016 minutes as written, seconded by B. and unanimously approved.

Capital Improvement Worksheets were handed out. Ken reported the CIP reviewed and adjusted some of the numbers. The CIP will be utilized as a tool to help plan out where the town may be headed for capital expenditures. The Department Heads were asked to update amounts and dates spread out for the next 5 years. At this point, it is a fairly accurate picture, but it is understood that things could change at any time. A paving plan was reviewed with Pete Abair and paving project costs were averaged and spread out over the next 3-4 years. The Board agreed they prefer to track large ticket expenditures, and leave maintenance issues out of the CIP.

Budget Committee members discussed paving philosophy. There was also discussion as to why the culvert replacement for the George Hill Road culverts on Bog Brook and Gove Brook were "pushed out." The culverts have been noted on the State's red list but there are no plans underway for replacement. Preliminary cost estimates were done by the State of NH several years ago. The State may have funds available, but the money would not be available for some time. The Board will talk to Pete about this when he meets with them.

Library: Tamara reported the library trustees are looking at possible options for fund-raising to fund interior renovations. They had discussed the possibility of a warrant article to see how the voters felt about the project. These renovations are all part of a plan they had been considering but they tabled when space needs for the entire office/library complex was under review. The Trustees will be invited to attend the budget meeting on January 16th.

Fire Department: The Fire Department is still working on getting figures from several vendors. B. stated he has been invited to a meeting tomorrow night with fire department personnel and a representative from E-One. The Board discussed costs. B. noted and NFPA approved truck would be more than 200K. Concern was shared regarding replacement of the existing tanker being replaced only because of its age.

Ken reported he and Rob Thorp, Manager, New London-Springfield Water Precinct, will schedule a meeting with Pete Lacaillade to find out about the water used to fill the tanks. Rob has questioned whether water treatment is something to expect a volunteer fireman to do. There

should be someone certified to handle this as there is a lot to take into account with the chemicals to use and store.

Sand Shed: The idea has been “kicked around” to build a sand shed in the area now used for the sand stockpile. Pete Abair has reviewed enclosing the area with waste blocks and building a roof. Final figures are not known. The selectmen have tabled funding and further discussion until more is known about how the total operating budget comes in. There was a great deal of discussion about other options on the site and the access to the area up behind. Leigh stated he has been involved in this discussion about this project for the past 6 years, kicking ideas around and looking at costs to make some room up there. An engineering plan was done by CLD engineering which he e-mailed to all the Board. Several suggested doing the work in stages to perhaps provide an area for storage of equipment before considerations are made for a sand shed. Many were in agreement there needs to be a better plan for the property before spending \$35,000 for a sand shed. Jeff Milne stated he would be willing to volunteer to look at the plan and the piece of land and others around it, to see how something may fit together. Leigh also suggested the possibility of putting a group together to look at the scope from a broader perspective.

The Board suggested the Selectmen meet with Pete to see if doing a sand shed right now a good plan for the “big picture”. There has been a lot of money spent on that piece of land to see what other options exist, and it might be worthwhile to take more time to look into this from a broader perspective. Ken noted his concern is spending the \$35,000 now and then nothing is different than what is there now.

The Board will meet with the main department heads, and anyone else who would like to come before them, on Monday, January 16.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant