

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2014**

## **MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**7:00 P.M.**

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

Members present: Ken Jacques, Bryan O'Day, Jeff Milne, Tim Cook, Bill Huntoon, Darrin Patten and Leigh Callaway, Ex-Officio. Absent: Jon Poston.

Others present: Joyce Guinther, Tim Julian, George McCusker, Dick Kipperman, John Trachy, and Justin Hastings.

Ken Jacques called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the roll was called.

Motion by Jeff to accept the February 3, 2014 Minutes as written; motion seconded by Bryan and unanimously approved.

The Board reviewed the proposed operating budget by department. Bill Huntoon asked about consideration for putting the cemetery maintenance out to bid. Leigh noted the Selectmen will be looking for part-time help under the auspices of the Highway Department and will also assist Frank at the Cemetery. The idea of putting this out to bid will be tabled for Selectmen consideration for next year.

Ken stated the presentation by Donna Nashawaty and Scott Hazelton for the transfer station was a good explanation of the facility. He has looked at other facilities and doesn't see how the Town could ever run a transfer station for that amount of money (operating budget).

Warrant Article review:

Leigh reported the Selectmen voted 2 to 1 to pull the sand shed recommendation.

They are recommending a new truck at \$151,000 with a \$15,000 trade in and \$37,000 from the unreserved fund balance to bring the total purchase price down to \$99,000. A bond hearing is not required for less than 100K. The term of the note has not been chosen. Pete has hard numbers for a trade in on the blue truck.

Discussion:

- Suggestion to take the difference between \$99,000 and the purchase price from the fund balance (\$52,000).
- Are we possibly leaving money on the table to with a \$15,000 trade-in
- Is it possible the blue truck could be sold by bid for more
- The blue truck could be put out for bids up until the time of payment and taking deliver on a new truck.
- The budget committee would like to see a "cleaner" warrant article.

Leigh reviewed the unreserved fund balance, the impact from warrant articles being appropriated through the fund balance, and possible scenarios that could impact the amount in fund balance. The Selectmen have chosen to keep \$150K “fenced in” as a worst case scenario in the pending abatement appeals. The Board felt comfortable with the remaining fund balance. The status of the fund balance will be better known when the 2013 audit is complete.

Most of the Budget Committee members appeared to be “ok” with the truck purchase; and suggested a more reasonable approach would be to remove the trade-in allowance in the proposed Article and put the blue truck out to bid before the new truck is purchased.

The Board felt they had no real issues with the other warrant articles recommended by the Selectmen.

Ken asked what the plan was for the highway property. Once the permit is received the property should be looked at in terms of use of the property including but not limited to the possibility of a sand shed being relocated. The need of a new sand shed is known, what isn’t certain is where the best place is for it to be located.

The Board agreed they were comfortable with the Selectmen’s estimated revenue projections.

Vote on Warrant Articles:

**Article 2**

**Motion by Jeff Milne, second by Tim Cook to recommend the warrant article as amended and discussed. Board members voted to approve; Bill Huntoon abstained.**

*To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to One Hundred Fifty One Thousand Dollars (\$151,000) (gross budget) to purchase and equip a truck for the Highway Department; said amount to be offset by up to Fifty Two Thousand Dollars (\$52,000) from the unreserved fund balance; and further to authorize the issuance of not more than Ninety-Nine Thousand Dollars (\$99,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Two Dollars (\$14,352) for the first year’s payment.*

**Article 3**

**Motion to recommend by Darrin Patten, second by Jeff Milne and unanimously approved.**

*To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) for the purpose of a 2014-2015 revaluation of the town. This sum to come*

*from the unreserved fund balance with no amount to be raised from taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation and will not lapse until the revaluation is complete or by December 31, 2016, whichever is sooner.*

**Article 4**

*To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) for the purpose of exterior carpentry repair and exterior painting at the Town Hall. This sum to come from the unreserved fund balance with no amount to be raised from taxation.*

**Motion to recommend by Darrin Patten, second by Tim Cook, unanimously approved.**

**Article 5**

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Four Hundred Forty Dollars (\$3,440) for deposit in the Old Home Day Expendable Trust Fund in accordance with RSA 31:19-a. Said funds to come from the unreserved fund balance with no amount to be raised from taxation; (this represents proceeds collected in 2013 by the Old Home Day Committee).*

**Motion to recommend by Bryan O'Day, second by Darrin Patten, unanimously approved.**

**Article 6**

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended One Million, Two Hundred Twelve Thousand Five Hundred and Two Dollars (\$1,212,502) for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. Sum*  
**[ One Million, Two Hundred Twenty Six Thousand, Eight Hundred Fifty Four Dollars (\$1,226,854) was the amount pre-Department of Revenue review. The specific dollar amount for this article changed based on the DRA's recommended accounting for the appropriation and debt service for the new truck]**

**Motion to recommend by Jeff Milne, second by Darrin Patten, unanimously approved.**

Janet will notify Board members to come in and sign the budget appropriation form when the Department of Revenue has reviewed and approved the proposed budget and warrant articles

Ken thanked everyone for their time and participation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts