

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**JANUARY 28, 2020**

**MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**7:00 P.M.**

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

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.; roll was called.

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

Others present: Selectman, Dick Hendl; and Peter Abair, Road Agent; Mike Beaulieu attended for a short time.

Minutes of January 21, 2020: Darrin moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Leigh and unanimously approved.

Ken asked Dick if George had been in contact with Dan Nash. Dick reported there has been no response from George and that Darrin Patten has volunteered to meet with Dan. The Select Board approved for Darrin to do so at their meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Highway Department Truck: Peter stated he has a quote for a new Western Star with a side dump and stainless-steel body at 170K. The salesman told him about some used trucks. New trucks are taking about a year and a half to build, so he doesn't expect to have a new truck until summer 2021. He would expect to get a vehicle life of 12 to 15 years from a new truck. The truck comes with an extended 7-year warranty, but he is not sure what it covers. Pete stated used trucks typically do not have stainless bodies. He would trade-in the 2008 Sterling. The purchase price of the new one would be offset by whatever he gets for a trade-in. He said the 2006 is in better shape. He would plan to run it another 5 or 6 years and then trade it for a newer used truck. There is always one truck that doesn't get used during the summer. The newest truck will be used year-round. The Board discussed options. There are currently two used trucks that are close in age. They questioned whether a newer used truck could be purchased for around 80K and discussed a plan to run that truck for ten years and with a plan to purchase another newer truck in five years or so. The idea is to get the trucks more than two years apart in age. To get the numbers back in order, the red truck would have to be able to go 6 or 7 more years. The Board discussed the availability of used trucks and associated costs versus new trucks and an estimated cost per year to run. Peter stated a new truck will take a year and a half to get so he will still need to get through another winter with the trucks he has. He might be able to find a used truck this summer. Replacing the body with stainless-steel on the red truck was mentioned as a possible way to extend the life of the truck so the truck replacements schedule can get back in order. The Board asked Peter to get an estimate for a stainless-steel body. Ken asked Dick for his opinion. Dick stated that after hearing discussions, he agrees with Pete that the way to go is with a new truck. He noted his concern with the employees having to take time away from highway maintenance to work on trucks.

Tamara and Dick reviewed the appropriations that were added to the operating budget since last week. There is almost a 10% increase in the transfer station costs, mostly due to the decrease in revenue from recycling. Springfield's share is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sunapee's revenue and operating costs. The Board agreed the transfer station is still a good deal for Springfield.

Non-recurring projects has been appropriated at \$14K, same as last year. Dick explained the Selectmen have accepted the donation from the 250<sup>th</sup> Charitable Trust and approved installing a lift in the Town Hall. The appropriation is planned to install an emergency generator at the Town Hall, which could be done during the construction of the lift. It is possible the building could be used as an over-flow emergency shelter if needed. Darrin cautioned about the capacity of the septic if using the building as a shelter.

The Board discussed fire truck replacement and NFPA requirements for replacement. Peter Lacaillade and Kevin have been asked to investigate grants. The Board questioned how pushing out the year of replacement impacts the insurance rating or its impact on residents.

Darrin suggested perhaps the chassis of the 1998 fire truck could be considered as an option to set up as a plow truck as an avenue to investigate. The town owns the truck and would probably not get a lot in trade. It might need to have some money spent on it but might make a better truck than buying a used plow truck. The truck has a diesel engine, low mileage and has been kept in good shape.

The Board discussed the intersection at the end of Nichols Hill Road. The Board agreed it makes sense to put money into fixing the end of the road before the road is paved. They made the recommendation to encourage the Board of Selectmen to fix Nichols Hill Road this year before any paving is done. There is an abutter willing to work with the town to improve the situation.

There were no further questions or comments from the Board.

The Board agreed they are comfortable with the operating budget proposed by the Selectmen.

The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,  
Administrative Assistant