

BUDGET COMMITTEE

JANUARY 8, 2019

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. and roll was called.

Present: Ken Jacques, Chairman; Leigh Callaway, Darrin Patten, B. Manning, Justin Hastings, Tim Cook, Jeff Milne, and Ex-officio Tamara Butcher. Brian Putney was absent.

Others present: Selectmen Dick Hendl, and George McCusker.

The Board briefly reviewed the budget worksheet. Proposed budgets from Departments are not known yet. The Selectboard will be meeting with department heads at their meeting on January 14th. Payments for 2018 expenses will be finalized on January 17th.

The Selectboard has not yet decided on an amount for a wage increase for employees. Associated benefits will need to be calculated accordingly.

Tamara reported the Selectmen do not anticipate much increase in the operating budget. They are in agreement the highway truck fund needs an appropriation to bring it back up to the \$75,000 level, since a replacement truck was purchased through the fund this year. Peter is planning to pave Shad Hill and TLV this year. At this time, there does not appear to be much more that would require warrant article funding.

Dick reported the Board voted to encumber funds from 2018 for work to take place in 2019 for the amounts of: \$850 which is 50% of the cost of replacing the marquee signs. The Garden Club will pick up the rest. \$3200 for replacing the boiler that heats the upstairs of the meeting house, \$9350 to update 6 computer work stations, as recommended at the office and police department, and \$650 for Capital Alarm to do an upgrade at the Town Hall. The alarm upgrade has already been taken care of and paid for.

The Board discussed capital expenditures. The CIP gives direction as to what to anticipate, but is a working document that changes as needs arise. There are no capital expenditures shown for 2019 but a large hit in 2020 that needs to be looked at and adjusted. Big ticket items, and replacing trucks and equipment need to be addressed to be able to maintain continuity and level funding of the tax rate for the tax payers.

Ken reviewed the thoughts expressed at the last meeting about fixing the entrance at the bottom of the Nichols Hill before money is allocated to pave the road. The Budget Committee has mentioned allocating monies for more road prep and stabilization before paving. Ken asked if the Selectboard has had any discussion with Peter about the Nichols Hill project. They have not. The property owner is willing, at this time, to allow something to happen there, as long as he is agreeable to the plans that are proposed and now would be a good time move on that.

Ken stated the Selectmen, and not necessarily the Budget Committee, should be the ones to work with Peter on that. Members agreed it would be a good year to take on a project such as this, and recommend money being appropriated for engineering and planning.

Leigh questioned what the status of the sand shed and site work is. Tamara stated Pete has planned on doing the road and site prep. Leigh would like to see things kept moving toward the sand shed, and a plan for what the stages are going to be. Pete had some ideas as to a building using waste blocks, and roof trusses. The Board agreed there needs to be an idea from more than just one person as to the best plan with input from Pete as to how much sand and salt he needs on hand and how much he needs under cover. Leigh and Jeff volunteered to look at other towns and meet with their road agents to see what they like and dislike about their sheds, and get an idea of what makes sense for Springfield.

Jeff mentioned there also needs to be discussion about future needs for a police station. Tim and Mike have set things up so they can do most of their work from their cars, but that is not always going to be the case. Having some ideas from Chief Tim, who is very aware of what is appropriate for the town, would be of great benefit.

The Board would like to encourage the Selectmen to review with the Road Agent capital expenditures, as to road maintenance, not just paving. They also would like to see a replacement plan for the backhoe, loader, and grader. Replacing trucks from the truck fund seems to have worked well so far, but is it the best way to proceed, or is buying a new truck a better way to go. Pete has some ideas about purchasing a stainless body for the trucks, and then moving the body from truck to truck, perhaps having more truck options available.

The Budget Committee will meet with Department Heads on Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant