

BUDGET COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 10, 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, Darrin Patten, B. Manning, Justin Hastings, Leigh Callaway, Jeff Milne Tim Cook, Bryan Putney and Ex-Officio, Tamara Butcher.

Others present: Dick Hendl and George McCusker

Election of Officers: Darrin moved to leave the slate of officers as is. Chairman, Ken Jacques, and Vice-Chairman, Justin Hastings provided they are willing. Jeff seconded the motion. Ken and Justin agreed. The Board voted in favor with Ken and Justin abstaining.

Dates were chosen for 2020 budget sessions as follows: Meetings January 14, 21, 28, 2020; Public Hearing February 11, 2020 with a hold over hearing on February 18th if necessary. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

2019 Expenditures were reviewed. The Selectmen are still waiting for detailed drawings to be completed for the storage and future sand shed site plan.

Avitar is in the process of a statistical update. The cost is \$40,000 and the Selectmen anticipate encumbering funds or using Unreserved Fund Balance for this purpose. The Board questioned if Springfield Power will require an in-depth appraisal for 2020 since the plant is not operating.

Legal fees and expenses relative to tax deeding of a property were reviewed. The tax deeded property is in the process of being repurchased by the former owner.

Dick reported Tim Julian is proposing the addition of a part-time officer at \$20,000/yr., due to the increased number of calls and availability on weekends. Tim knows a potential candidate who is fully trained.

Highway Paving: Paving was not done this year due to loss of one highway employee and the weather turning cold before the paving could be done. Ken noted his concern with roads being prepped too closely to when they are to be paved. It would be better to do the prep work at the beginning of summer, giving the roads time to compact and settle. He has talked to Peter about this. Encumbering funds for paving was reviewed, but there is no contract. George McCusker stated that Peter has been talking to Continental for paving.

Ken reviewed the Capital Improvements Plan with the Board. Expenditures discussed for 2020 were \$8,400 for mini-split cooling in the Selectmen's office, Town Clerk's office, and Protectworth Room.

The statistical update as discussed above.

Ken noted that Peter had discussed truck replacement and is thinking of buying a new truck because used trucks without emissions issues are not as available as they once were. The newer trucks emissions have changed.

The Fire Department's Engine 2 is scheduled for replacement in the next 2 to 5 years. Current cost to replace is estimated at \$500,000. The Board discussed the department does not have the option of getting used trucks like the highway has done. They should determine current rules and regulations for replacement schedules. Bryan stated that each vehicle is rated differently by NFPA, so they are not all on a 15-year replacement.

A backhoe is in the CIP for 2020. Peter has expressed some ideas about keeping the backhoe and the loader for now. The Board will discuss further plans with Peter when they meet with him.

The Board will discuss the paving schedule with Peter when they meet with him.

Police Department does not have any vehicle replacements scheduled for 2020. Tim is interested in a part-time officer.

The Budget Committee plans to meet with Department Heads on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. Times for individual departments will be determined on a later date.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p. m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant