

BUDGET COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 5, 2016

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

Present: Ken Jacques, Jeff Milne, Justin Hastings, Tim Cook, Bryan O'Day, Bill Huntoon, Darrin Patten, B. Manning and Ex-Officio, Tamara Butcher.

Meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

Nominations: B. nominated Ken Jacques as Chairman. Motion seconded by Jeff
B. nominated Justin Hastings as Vice-Chair, seconded by Tim. The Board voted unanimously to approve the slate of officers.

Meeting schedule for the 2017 budget season: Work Sessions: Monday, January 2, January 16, and January 30. The Public Hearing will be held Tuesday, February 14, with a hold-over date reserved for Monday, February 20th if needed. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

The Board will meet with Department Heads for review of their proposed operating budgets, and large ticket items.

Tamara Butcher, Selectmen's Ex-Officio member gave an overview of the proposed budget. There are minimal, if any, increases in many department operating budgets. The list of "Projected Large Ticket Items" prepared by Leigh was shared.

Tamara reported, last week the Library Trustee's proposed an estimated project of \$38,500. The Trustee's would like to make renovations within the interior of the library to help them reach their objective to improve use and work flow. The work is part of the project they began with space needs assessment that was put on hold while more research was done as to an assessment of the entire building complex. The Board questioned if there might be grants available. In-kind donations may also be available. Will the Friends have funds to contribute? The Board questioned if this would be a warrant article request. Tamara noted this concept has not gone before the Selectmen yet. The Board agreed, it would be cleaner if it was a warrant article.

The Fire Department will be looking to replace the 1992 tanker. Estimated prices are in the \$250,000 range. NFPA recommends front-line equipment of < 20 years in age. There are issues with tanks and valves, some of it due to the water at the station that is used to fill the tanks. Ken Jacques questioned whether there could be some sort of water treatment done at the station. He will speak to Rob Thorp at the New London Springfield Water Precinct. It makes sense to treat the water so all the equipment does not have issues. The Board discussed used trucks versus new, and how the new truck might be set up.

Highway big ticket is the paving budget. Pete has an estimate for a total of \$206,000 from Pike to pave George Hill from the Marsh to the Enfield Town Line, Bog Road, and Twin Lake Villa Road. The Board discussed how this fit with a CIP program. They feel they need a better understanding of where Pete is headed with paving plans. This estimate does not appear to be in line with his projections from other years.

Board discussed projected \$35,000 for a sand shed. Proposal is to build with waste blocks and a roof over the existing sand storage area. The Board discussed planning for the best use of the property for the future while solving current problems. Concern regarding limited parking near the fire station for use as an emergency services building was reviewed. The Board would like an opportunity to review the plan and quote from CLD engineering. Long-term planning also needs to be given to future needs of the police department.

The Board reviewed the Unreserved Fund Balance amounts, and questioned whether the Selectmen have discussed using any money from the URFB to offset costs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant