

BUDGET COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 1, 2016

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

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

Budget members present: Ken Jacques, Chairman; Jeff Milne, Bill Huntoon, Bryan O'Day, Tim Cook, Justin Hastings, B. Manning, Darrin Patten, and Leigh Callaway.

Others present: Tim Julian and George McCusker.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll was called.

The Public Hearing for the Budget is scheduled for Primary Election Day. B. and Jeff will not be available. Board agreed to proceed with the Hearing as planned.

Operating Budget: Ken suggested the Selectmen look at what expenses were from this past year. There was a substantial reduction in fuel costs over what was budgeted. There do not appear to be any big problems with the proposed operating budget, but when looking at what was spent last year (2015), the increase is 9.5% over what was spent.

Leigh reviewed the non-recurring projects list

There is an estimate in engineering for CLD to do a site plan for the land behind the highway garage.

George reported the Cemetery Commission has proposed a uniform allowance to purchase uniforms for Frank.

Draft Warrant Articles:

The Board discussed the pros and cons for borrowing for a replacement highway truck. There are available funds in the fund balance and it makes sense to get funding for a replacement out of the way.

Ken stated that what hasn't been presented in any of the long-range capital expenditures is the discussion of what costs will be incurred for the town office/library building project. Jeff stated alternative ideas are being explored. The overall cost of the proposed design is too much. Jeff stated the committee is in no position to do any presentations at this time.

Leigh noted in his long range plan he has put place holders for building plans and two major culverts on George Hill Road, (Gove Brook and Bog Brook) that need replacing.

Bill noted the costs for paving appear to be more than the 50K per mile that was suggested. The Board discussed plans for paving. Leigh reported that \$80K per year may no longer be a viable

number because paving has not been kept up the way that it should have been. In many cases, Pete has no idea when some roads were last paved. B. stated it looks like the 5 year average, as proposed would be somewhere around \$127K per year. [We] have to find a way to work back to the \$80K per year. Further discussion followed regarding determining the logic behind the increased paving. Some of these roads should have reclamation work done before repaving so they will hold up.

Ken asked if the Selectmen are set on long-term borrowing to fund the cruiser versus purchasing outright from the fund balance. Leigh stated money is cheap to borrow. The loan on the rescue truck will be paid off this year. Adding the cruiser, maintains the debt service level and would leave money in the fund balance for other uses, such as paving.

Ken suggested the Selectmen review the big ticket items. He does not think the budget committee is ready to support \$120K in paving each year.

George asked for the Board's recommendation for purchasing the cruiser with fund balance. The Board had mentioned they felt there was quite a bit of flexibility in the fund. Ken stated no one would be opposed to use money out of the fund to purchase the cruiser.

The Public Hearing on the budget is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts