

Selectmen's Budget Hearing, Monday, February 7, 1994

Present: Phil Dwight, Chairman BOS, Dave Boule', Tom Davis, Selectmen, Mike Oldershaw, Boyd and Elise Quackenbush, Carter Proctor, Bill Ruoff, Public at large and Betty Shaw, Secretary BOS.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

Copies of the proposed budget and list of warrant articles were distributed. Selectmen reviewed the budget explaining the major increases as being the increase in worker's compensation, first payment on the fire truck and the first payment on the landfill closure. Most of the other line articles show minor increases or decreases. There is also a proposed 4% pay increase for employees.

Selectmen are concerned over the highway budget as 2/3 of the proposed overtime budget has already been used, contracted snow removal is over \$2,000 and 50% of the salt budget has been spent. It was pointed out that there are three choices; 1. take a chance on the proposed budget and make up elsewhere if need be, 2. increase the budget now or 3. cut back on the new paving which has \$75,000 budgeted.

Mike Oldershaw offered some suggestions such as having the snow moved back during regular hours and not during night and overtime hours. Selectmen pointed out the road crew is working one man short with the road agent out on sick leave and the men have tried to cut back on overtime hours by working their eight hours when cars are off the road and then going home. The men also have to work to keep the vehicles in repair and ready for the next storm. Mike also suggested contracting out all the snow plowing. The town now owns the vehicles to do the plowing and selectmen did not see this as the time to make such a change. When new vehicles are needed, is the time to consider this plan. Tom pointed out that when a storm comes in during the night, the men are out trying to keep ahead of it, they are dealing as best they can. This is not the only town in this situation.

Phil explained the DAR change allowing many of the warrant articles which are voted each year to be voted this year and they will remain in effect until rescinded.

Since the State will be paving 7,000 feet of sidewalks in Antrim, (both sides of Main St.), during 1994 and 1995, the funds requested this year for sidewalks if approved will be used for West St. and or Summer Street.

Phil gave a brief explanation of all the warrant articles to be presented at town meeting including two articles to change the interest rate charged for late payment of taxes. Letters have been received from the town attorney and the department of revenue administration which make it clear, the articles are not legal and can not be enforced. The Town Moderator will have to

notify the public that both articles are null and void at the town meeting as they would put the town in violation.

Mr. Quackenbush asked if he would be permitted to request the town look into the sovereignty proposal whereby the federal government is permitted to issue funds free of interest rates. Selectmen informed Mr. Quackenbush he can discuss a resolution along with other business at the end of the town meeting and should have the resolution in writing to be presented to the moderator.

Phil mentioned the need to have 2/3rds of all voters to vote yes in order to pass the school funding formula change.

Public meeting adjourned at 7:50

Selectmen met in their office to go over other business.

Dave moved to accept the minutes of February 1 as written.  
Second Tom. All in favor. So moved.

Intent to cuts were signed for the LoVerme and the Small properties.

Selectmen will ask that all food vouchers given out by the town be used in town.

A small reduction in the health cost premium will be reflected starting with the April billing.

Selectmen voted not to meet Monday, February 14th.

Meeting adjourned 8:45

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