

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 25, 2014  
MINUTES**

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**Call to Order**

6:35pm - The meeting was called to order.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Chairman Verville asked all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag.

**Moment of Silent Reflection**

**Roll Call**

**Present:** Kevin Verville, Chairman; Jim Spillane, Vice Chair, Harriet Cady, David Carbone, Karen Cote, Carol Levesque, Fred McGarry and Brendan O'Donnell Members; Maryann Clark, School Board Rep; Andrew Robertson, Select Board Rep

**Absent:** Jeff Kelley, Member

**Also Present:** Jan Foisy, Finance Director, Penny Touchette, Assessing Department and Cindy McHugh, Rescue Squad Director

**Approval of Minutes – Tuesday, October 28, 2014**

**Motion:** Selectman Robertson moves to approve the minutes as written

**Second:** B. O'Donnell

**Vote: Yea 7, Nay 0, Abstained 2 – Motion Carries**

*Member F. McGarry was absent for this vote*

**Receipt of Proposed Town Budget**

Selectman Robertson reviewed the highlights of the proposed 2015 Town budget. The bottom line is presented at \$3,835,325, an increase of approximately 7% over the previous year. The default amount is \$3,687,073, \$148,252 less than proposed. One of the larger contributors to the increase is \$146,000 for the revaluation line. This is the first year of a five-year revaluation contract, P. Touchette indicated that the cost will be roughly \$23,000 in years 2-5 of that contract. It was later noted that the assessing ratio is currently at 105%, down from a previous 109%. H. Cady described that this means the assessed values in Town are 5% more than what the properties are selling for.

Other areas where the Committee will notice increases are in the Zoning Board of Adjustment budget, all building lines and the Transfer Station. Selectman Robertson explained that 2-3% of each of the building expense lines is directly attributable to maintenance and that there is some \$25,000 budgeted to address pavement repairs at the Transfer Station.

Selectman Robertson noted that the proposal includes salary adjustments for the Police Chief (who recently completed Academy requirements) and Town Administrator. The budget does not include much by way of road reconstruction within the Highway Department, however sand and salt contracts have increased.

The Select Board has not yet taken action on proposed Warrant Articles. Selectman Robertson noted a Warrant Article to establish a Revolving Fund for the payment of special Police detail work and spoke of its importance as it will be a source of revenue for the Town. Vice Chairman Spillane asked whether this was the same Article voters had seen previously and Selectman Robertson answered that the intent is the same, but that the language has been revised with the hope that it reads more clearly to the

electorate. C. Levesque asked what work is planned for the Town Hall, J. Foisy responded that they plan to paint two sides of the building in 2015 and to replace the shutters. C. Levesque spoke that after the work done to the roof of the Town Hall there have been a number of unsightly cracks appearing in the walls and ceilings and it is her hope those can be addressed before the 250<sup>th</sup> celebrations in 2016. Selectman Robertson indicated he will pass that information along, adding that the budget does include a \$10,000 line for the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration expenses. Jack Hutchinson, who is facilitating the Anniversary Celebration committee, feels that it is quite likely they can cover their costs through fundraising efforts, but the Select Board chose to include the amount as a fall back.

**School Budget Update** None

**Old Business** None

**New Business** None

**Citizens Comments**

J. Foisy asked that Members forward any questions through the Chair as expediently as possible so that the Town can formulate answers in advance of next Tuesday's review.

**Adjourn:**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Spillane moves to adjourn the meeting of November 25, 2014

**Second:** F. McGarry

**All in Favor – Motion Carries – Meeting Adjourned @ 6:45pm**

**Next Meeting Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30p**

The Minutes were Recorded, Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katie Libby.

Pending Approval by the Municipal Budget Committee