

**BUDGET COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 12, 2008  
DPW – 6:00 PM**

**Present:** Shirley Green, Gayle Hulva, Gail Malz, Roberta Morse, Lori Saladino, David Stewart (Vice-Chair)

**Excused:** Lee Carrier (Chair), Judy Finsterbusch, Richard Martin, Curtis Payne (Selectman)

**Staff:** Steve Schneider

Committee Vice-Chair, Dave Stewart, called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING (continued from 2/4/2008)**

Schneider advised of Kimberly Witherow's efforts to renegotiate the proposed ambulance purchase price down to \$117,000. The vehicle would now be funded from the Ambulance Capital Reserve (\$112,000) and Emergency Services Equipment Capital Reserve (\$5,000). Schneider said the \$36,000 Emergency Services Equipment Capital Reserve had been pegged for the purchase of a generator for the DPW building. He said the State had confirmed funding for that generator. The \$31,000 Reserve balance would now be used to purchase a generator for the Fire Department. Schneider said the Town would be able to purchase the ambulance model the Fast Squad wanted without having to impact the tax rate.

SALADINO asked if this would affect the \$70,000 transfer the Selectmen agreed to use from the Undesignated Fund Balance at the February 4<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing. Schneider said no, that \$70,000 transfer would be applied to the DPW equipment purchases. Bob Cusick asked how much was being used from the Undesignated Fund Balance. Schneider said \$70,000 for the DPW equipment and \$400,000 for the library. Mr. Cusick asked how that would impact the Fund Balance in relation to the Town's appropriations. Schneider said he would not know the full impact to the Undesignated Fund Balance until the county and school demands were known. He suggested the percentage would drop from 9% to 7%.

Mr. Cusick commended Ms. Witherow on the renegotiation but encouraged her to continue to barter the price down to \$112,000. He suggested Sugarloaf, the ambulance dealer, was under a lot of pressure to sell the ambulance and remove it from their lot. Mr. Cusick asked how quickly a purchase order could be issued for the purchase. Schneider said following Town Meeting approval, it would be up to the Selectmen to issue the purchase order. Ms. Witherow said the seller was not under pressure to sell to the Town. They understood that the purchase and sales agreement was contingent upon Town Meeting approval. Ms. Witherow said the ambulance would be sold to someone else if the Enfield voters denied the funding.

Schneider spoke about a recent article the Spectator published about the Town's budget which was inconsistent with the information he had provided the reporter. He said he had also explained the budget impact to a Valley News reporter and hoped that article would accurately

relay that information. Schneider said he was going to submit a Letter to the Editor of the Spectator following the Budget Committee's approval of the proposed budget.

**Article 7:** to raise and appropriate \$4,925,698 for general municipal operations. This does not include special or individual articles addressed. Estimated tax impact \$6.53 per \$1,000 valuation. **It was moved by GREEN, seconded by SALADINO, to accept Article 7.** HULVA asked why the total had increased from \$4,849,000, reported at the February 4<sup>th</sup> Hearing. Schneider said the February 4<sup>th</sup> figure did not include water and sewer. **The Committee voted unanimously.**

**Article 8:** to raise and appropriate \$112,000 for the acquisition of a new ambulance. This is to be defrayed by use of \$112,000 from the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund. This article has no impact on the proposed 2008 Tax Rate. **It was moved by MALZ, seconded by GREEN to accept Article 8 as written. The Committee voted unanimously.**

**Article 9:** to raise and appropriate \$212,000 for the acquisition of public works equipment and to authorize the withdrawal of \$120,969 from the Public Works Vehicle & Equipment Capital Reserve and authorize use/transfer of \$70,000 of the December 31, 2007 fund balance for this purpose. The balance of \$21,031 is to come from general taxation. Estimated tax impact 4.816 cents per \$1,000 valuation. **It was moved by MORSE, seconded by SALADINO, to accept Article 9. The Committee voted unanimously.**

MALZ questioned Warrant Articles 13 and 14 (to establish the Enfield National Historic Register District). Article 13, submitted by petition, proposes \$15,700 funding and Article 14 proposes \$5,700. MALZ asked if it was possible for the Town to approve both funding proposals. Mr. Cusick said an amendment could be introduced at Town Meeting to remove the \$5,700 funding if the \$15,700 is approved. Schneider said if the petitioned article for the \$15,700 funding passes, the other article would become null and void. The Town would then have to raise the full \$15,700 (\$10,000 more than what is included in the proposed budget).

**It was moved by MALZ, seconded by GREEN, to approve the budget as presented on the MS7 Form. The Committee voted unanimously.**

STEWART said it was a pleasure working with everyone and thanked the Committee members for their hard work.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Rivard, Secretary