

Budget Committee

Public Meeting

January 13, 2007

Chairman Carrier convened a business meeting of the Budget Committee in the Ilene P. Reed training room, located at 74 Lockehaven Road, Enfield, NH, at 8:45 am.

PRESENT: Lee Carrier - Chairman, Gayle Hulva - Vice Chair, Eric Crate, Shirley Green, Richard Martin, Judy Finsterbusch, Bob Cusick, Lori Bliss Hill, Dominic Albanese – Selectman, David L. Stewart

ABSENT:

GUESTS:

- **Administrative**

Motion to approve minutes of November 30, 2006, as amended with typographical errors corrected, by Lori Bliss Hill and a second from Bob Cusick. All in favor.

Motion to approve minutes of December 16, 2006, as amended with typographical errors corrected, by Lee Carrier and a second from Judy Finsterbusch. All in favor.

Revenue worksheet distributed by Steve Schneider.

Steve Schneider commented that it pays to be conservative when estimating revenues.

Lee Carrier agrees that it is better to be conservative than aggressive.

Dominic Albanese added that the Town has two opportunities to update the MS-4. We need a little bit of room to wiggle in because the Town may have another instance where Bob Anderson (from DRA) comes in November and says that we won't be getting the water pollution grant (like in 2006) or some other state funds when we've been counting on it.

Judy Finsterbusch asked if the Town would be doing boat registrations in 2007?

Steve Schneider responded, no.

Lee Carrier recommended not taking any undesignated funds to be used toward revenues. Would like to see more even tax rate and keep spending level.

Dominic Albanese reminded Lee that it is a Board of Selectmen decision, solely, as to how undesignated surplus is used.

Discussion of revaluation of town by "neighborhood", sales etc.

Lori Bliss Hill would like copy of what each revenue line represents.

Lee Carrier commented that, regarding water and sewer, with the increase in their budgets, there is a need to increase the revenues and therefore the water and sewer users will be hit even harder than non-water/sewer users.

Lori Bliss Hill questioned why are the water and sewer not separate enterprise funds?

Steve Schneider commented that the purpose of giving the committee the revenue is so that the committee can see what the Town gets to spend.

Steve Schneider commented that he and Lee Carrier met on January 12, 2007 and went thru the budget.

Distribution of 2007 budget adjustment.

Steve Schneider stated that the biggest room for readjustment is in the Department of Public Works and the Police Department, due to recent personnel changes. We can reassess the needs of the empty positions. There is room for affecting benefits and salaries without really affecting the services to the Town. The Town would be going out to bid for the mowing and the employees who were doing the mowing, will be doing real building and grounds maintenance and flagging as necessary, etc.

Shirley Green commented that this is a great opportunity to eliminate a position without affecting a person.

Lee Carrier commented that he doesn't think it right for the budget committee to nit-pick personnel when Steve works with these people day in and day out and we only get together for forty hours or so a year.

Steve Schneider commented:

01-4909-313 (Tax Mapping) The Town would be going at it slower so the cost won't be so high now, but spread out over time.

01-4194-734 (DPW Garages Special Projects) The paving of DPW driveway is an easy cut with Budget Committee but may not be so easy for the Board of Selectmen. Line to be reduced by \$25,000 for a total of \$0 being requested.

01-4194-432 (Center Hall) The painting will be eliminated from the 2007 budget. Line to be reduced by \$10,000 for a total of \$0 being requested

01-4210-740(New Equipment) The Police Department will be using money from Technology Capital Reserves for workstations and a laptop. Line to be reduced by \$9,256 for a total of \$28,412 being requested.

01-4550-110 (Library Personnel) and **01-4550-822 (Special Projects)** to be reduced.

01-4902-748 (DPW Vehicles) this line will be reduced to \$0.

Lee Carrier spoke about using capital reserves and that the Town may want to look at bonds rather than putting money into capital reserves. Lee Carrier used the example that it's like paying for a car now that you won't be purchasing till later.

Discussion of the use of capital reserves funds versus bonding.

Lee Carrier distributed a handout regarding the Capital Reserve Funds.

Lee Carrier suggested a warrant Article be created to change the Capital Reserve Fund titled Land Acquisition to be available for use for other purposes.

Steve Schneider commented that the Town doesn't need to put in more to the reserves than we're using so if we add less than last year and use less than last year, then it's still a net gain.

Lee Carrier added that if the Town takes the \$405,000 in changes recommended by Steve out of the Budget, the tax rate is up roughly a nickel.

Richard Martin cautioned that the Fire Department is getting a new rescue truck and that will put the reserve line down to \$0.

Bob Cusick commented that the rates are down now so if we need something we should bond now for them.

Lee Carrier stated that Enfield is higher than other town's of population size and we are not as good at generating revenues.

Break 10:25 – 10:40

Lee Carrier motioned to recommend that the tax rate is no higher than 6.69. Second by David Stewart. Nine votes in favor. One vote against. Motioned passed.

Dominic Albanese reminded the Committee that the Board of Selectmen would be reviewing Steve Schneider's reductions of \$405,000.

01-4651-### (Economic Development)

Lee Carrier commented that he had spoken to EVA and Sharon Carr said that EVA would paint the flagpole and do the printing and of the FAQ's booklets. This would reduce **01-4194-711 (Miscellaneous Property Expense)** by \$2,500 for flag painting and reduce **01-4651-530 (Public Information)** by \$1,000.

Richard Martin questioned if EVA is not a Town Department why would it be put into a Town Department budget rather than with all the others requesting donations?

EC have we ever come up with a method of funding for Regional associations?

General discussion of various methods of funding the regional associations

Lee Carrier would like to have seen the sub-committee come up with guidelines for funding the Regional Associations.

01-4197-001 (Advance Transit) in 2006, Advanced Transit received 4,000, multiply that by 4.5% and they should receive 4,180 in 2007. Dominic Albans made a motion to fund Advance Transit \$4,180. Second by Lori Bliss Hill.

David Stewart commented that the Town is subsidizing so no private group can start a bus line.

Bob Cusick commented that if this region is going to have any bus line, it's going to have to be subsidized by the town.

Zero votes in favor. Ten votes against. Motion did not pass.

Bob Cusick made a motion to fund \$3,090 for Advance Transit. Second by Judy Finsterbusch. All in favor.

01-4197-002 (Listen) Dominic Albanese made a motion to fund \$2,900. Second by Judy Finsterbusch. All in Favor.

01-4197-003 (Headrest) Dominic Albanese made a motion to fund \$3,090. Second by Shirley Green. All in favor.

01-4197-005 (VNA/VNH) Dominic Albanese made a motion to fund \$18,030. Second by Lori Bliss Hill. All in favor.

01-4197-006 (Senior Citizens Council) Dominic Albanese made a motion to fund \$6,450. Second by Judy Finsterbusch. All in favor.

01-4197-008 (Wise) Judy Finsterbusch made a motion to fund \$2,300. Second by Lori Bliss Hill. All in favor.

01-4197-009 (Enfield Shaker Museum) Judy Finsterbusch made a motion for zero funding. Second by Richard Martin. All in favor.

01-4197-010 (Acorn) Bob Cusick made a motion for zero funding. Second by Judy Finsterbusch. Nine votes in favor. One vote against. Motion passed.

Dominic Albanese reminded the committee that Diane Monmaney told the Committee that two Enfield residents received assistance from Acorn for their shots which could have cost the Town \$400 per month, each.

01-4197-011 (West Central Services) Dominic Albanese made a motion to fund \$2,500. Second by Bob Cusick.

General discussion.

Dominic Albanese then withdrew his motion and Bob Cusick withdrew his second.

Judy Finsterbusch made a motion to fund \$1,030. Second by Lori Bliss Hill. Eight votes in favor. Two votes against. Motion passed

01-4197-014 (Mascoma Valley Health Initiative) Dominic Albanese made a motion to fund \$1,000. Second by David Stewart. Nine votes in favor. One vote against. Motion passed

01-4197-015 (Tri County CAP) Dominic Albanese made a motion to fund \$2,280. Second by Lori Bliss Hill. All in favor.

01-4197-016 (Bonnie CLAC) Richard Martin made a motion for zero funding. Second by Lori Bliss Hill.

General discussion.

Richard Martin then withdrew his motion and Lori Bliss Hill withdrew her second.

Shirley Green made a motion to fund \$1,500. Second by Dominic Albanese. Nine votes in favor. One vote against. Motion passed.

Lori Bliss Hill commented that these changes bring the funding of the Regional Associations, not including EVA, to \$41,670.

01-4197-013 (Enfield Village Association) Dominic Albanese made a motion to fund \$13,500. Second by Bob Cusick. Six votes for. Four votes against. Motion passed.

Lori Bliss Hill commented that these changes bring the funding of the Regional Associations, including EVA, to \$55,170.

Town Office /Library renovations

David Stewart commented that he thinks the Town Offices should be moved to, and lease 78 Main. Believes it is a good idea to have people go thru downtown to get to the Town Offices.

Judy Finsterbusch believes the Town's people are not going to pass the new construction as proposed.

Bob Cusick stated that Whitney Hall is a good basic structure. It can be rehabbed. The library could go onto two floors. The cost would be minimal. Keep mitts off of the 2nd floor. This would allow the library supporters to have a building all for the library and not have to share fundraising efforts to be shared with Town Offices.

Shirley Green is concerned about the taxes. Thought originally that it would save taxpayers money if the mechanics were shared. Now knowing that fundraising is only for library it makes more sense to separate the two.

Richard Martin agrees that the 78 Main St. option should be explored. Keep the two projects separate.

Eric Crate feels that the two projects should also be separated. 78 Main may be an option but be careful about EVA as a Regional and EVA as the owner of building being leased. The library seems to be in the direction that they can take care of themselves, whereas the Town Offices cannot.

Lori Bliss Hill agreed with what Eric Crate.

Gayle Hulva commented that this issue has been studied for years. If the article has both together it won't pass. The library had an expansion just twelve years ago or so. I think the Library could come up with the money.

Dominic Albanese commented that it is a journey we on. My thinking continues to evolve. We did look at 78 Main St a couple of years ago.

Action Items

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn came forward at 12:20 PM from Lori Bliss Hill with a second from Eric Crate. Motion carried.