

Budget Committee

Public Meeting

January 19th, 2006

Chairman Carrier convened a business meeting of the Budget Committee in the Ilene P. Reed training room, located at 74 Lockehaven Road, Enfield, NH, 2005 at 6:18 PM.

Committee Members: Lee Carrier - Chairman, Gayle Hulva - Vice Chair, Eric Crate, David L. Stewart, Shirley Green, Dominic Albanese - Selectman, Lori Bliss Hill, Richard Martin, Judy Finsterbusch, Christopher Christopoulos

Administrative Staff: Steven Schneider - Town Manager, Wendy Huntley – Recorder

- **Administrative**

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 1st, 2005 meeting was made by Lori Bliss Hill and seconded by Eric Crate. Lori Bliss Hill wanted to amend the minutes by correction of typographical errors, changing the last line on page two, under the section beginning with Upper Valley Humane Society to read: “The Selectmen have put \$1,500 in the 2006 budget as an estimated cost”, and changing the first line under the section 01-4130- (Executive Office) to read “Lee Carrier commented that the executive budget is up to \$8,700 from the 2004 mostly due to \$10,000 requested in –690 (miscellaneous) for Town Manager training. A motion to approve the minutes of the December 1st, 2005 meeting as amended was made by Lori Bliss Hill and seconded by Judy Finsterbusch. All in favor. Chris Christopolous abstained. (Shirley Green absent.) Motion carried.

Dominic Albanese updated the Budget Committee on the Board of Selectmen Budget adjustments as shown on the attached spreadsheet.

01-4197- (Regional Associations) Dominic Albanese explained that the Board of Selectmen denied the requests for funding from the Mascoma Valley Health Initiative and Good Neighbor Health Initiative as the requests were submitted too late.

01-4210- (Police Department) Dominic Albanese explained that Captain Wayne Agan will be working 30 hours under the part time line –112 and 5 hours under the Emergency Management line 01-4290-112.

01-4215- (Ambulance) Dominic explained that the Selectmen plan to change the Ambulance by-laws so that the Town Manager will be able to more closely direct the department. Job descriptions are in the process of being written to reflect the by-law changes.

Dominic Albanese spoke about the Selectmen and the Town Manager working on a policy for paying employees during training.

(Shirley Green arrived at 7:15)

01-4311-110 (Highway Administration Personnel: Full time) Steven Schneider and Dominic Albanese to research the changes in budget request. Lee Carrier would like to see how each position is split between departments and a total of all lines.

01-4132-613 (Pavement Maintenance) The Selectmen have reduced this line by \$30,000. There will not be as much paving done in 2006 as in the past.

01-4323 (Solid Waste Collection and 01-4324 (Solid Waste Disposal) Dominic Albanese informed the Committee that the Selectmen have charged Steven Schneider with analyzing the recommendations of the Solid Waste Committee.

01-4550-110(Library Personnel) Dominic Albanese has met with Bart Thurber, Library Trustee and was informed that the Library Trustees felt that if the Library's budget is cut it would be punishing the Library for having been frugal with funds in the prior year. Also the Trustees are encouraging Marjorie Carr, Librarian, to take more of her vacation time, resulting in the need for using substitutes, thus causing expenses to go up.

Lee Carrier opened the floor for general comments from Committee Members.

Gayle Hulva asked why the \$40,000 wasn't spent on the Community Building in 2005.

Dominic Albanese explained that Ken Daniels, Public Works Director, wasn't able to complete all the projects as planned in 2005. Steven Schneider added that part of the problem is that there was no comprehensive development plan in place and that the Town should hold itself to the same development standards as private and commercial firms.

Eric Crate asked if Ken Daniels is spread too thin to complete projects and perhaps some of these tasks should be hired out.

General discussion of Regional Association funding

Lee Carrier recommended that the Committee come up with a strategy and goal to determine whom the Town gives contributions to. Recommended the creation of a sub-committee, of three, get together to decide whom to give funds to, to create criteria and a procedure for funding. Dominic Albanese added that Diane Monmaney, Human Services Director and one Selectmen, should also be on the sub-committee and that Police Chief, Richard Crate, Jr. be informed of the sub-committee to get his input.

Judy Finsterbusch made a motion to create a sub-committee for oversight of funding for the Regional Associations. Shirley Green Second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Gayle Hulva believes this sub-committee should begin working after Town Meeting.

The consensus of Budget Committee is that the Regional Associations not be a warrant article this year.

Eric Crate stated that he believes that some Regional Associations are a waste of time and some are a good place to put money. **01-4197-010 (ACORN)** Does not back funding in 2006.

01-4197-009 (Enfield Shaker Museum) Does not back funding in 2006.

01-4197-113 (Enfield Village Association) Thinks EVA does a good job, but feels they should be cut in 2006.

01-4197-001 (Advanced Transit) Thinks they should be cut back to \$3,000.

Dominic Albanese informed the committee that Van Chestnut, Director of Advance Transit, wanted to come in if the Committee plans on cutting the requested amount. Dominic Albanese stated that Advance Transit helps people keep jobs.

David L. Stewart read in the Spectator that it costs an average of \$86 per ride.

Lee Carrier would like to maintain the \$4,000 requested in the budget for Advanced Transit.

Eric Crate made a motion to reduce the amount for **01-4197-001 (Advance Transit)** from \$4,000 to \$3,000. Five votes in favor, five votes opposed. Motion did not carry.

01-4197-001 (Advance Transit) Chris Christopolous made a motion to fund \$4,000 as requested.

Dominic Albanese second. Five votes in favor, 5 votes opposed. Motion did not carry.

General Discussion of Advance Transit.

01-4197-001 (Advance Transit) Eric Crate made a motion to cut \$1,000 from request and fund \$3,000.

David L. Stewart second. Seven votes in favor. Two votes opposed. Motion carried.

01-4197-002 (Listen) Chris Christopolous made a motion to fund \$2,900 as requested. Gayle Hulva second. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4197-003 (Headrest) Chris Christopolous made a motion to fund \$3,000 as requested. Richard Martin second. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4197-005 (VNA/VNH) Chris Christopolous made a motion to fund \$16,850 as requested. Eric Crate second. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4197-006 (Senior Citizen's Council) Lori Bliss Hill made a motion to cut \$700 from request and fund 5,750. Judy Finsterbusch second. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4197-008 (WISE) Dominic Albanese made a motion to fund \$2,300 as requested. Chris Christopolous second. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4197-009 (Enfield Shaker Museum) Judy Finsterbusch made a motion for no funding. Lori Bliss Hill second. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4197-010 (ACORN) Eric Crate made a motion for no funding. Richard Martin second. Nine votes in favor. Dominic Albanese opposed. Motion carried.

01-4197-011 (West Central Services) Judy Finsterbusch made a motion to fund \$1,000 as requested. Shirley Green second. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4197-013 (Enfield Village Association) Eric Crate made a motion to cut \$5,000 from request and fund 5,000. David L. Stewart second. Seven votes in favor. Three votes opposed. Motion carried.

01-4197-014 (Mascoma Valley Health Initiative) Lori Bliss Hill made a motion for no funding. Eric Crate second. Nine votes in favor. Gayle Hulva abstains. Motion carried.

Dominic Albanese requested that the Committee vote on funding for Good Neighbor. Dominic Albanese made a motion for no funding. Chris Christopolous second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Break 8:00-8:08

01-4194-411 (Heating Oil) Lee Carrier asked whether the amount requested reflects today's market price. Dominic Albanese responded, yes.

01-4312-614 (Signs and Markings) Chris Christopolous made a motion to cut \$3,000 from request and fund at \$12,000. Lee Carrier second. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4312-618 (Sidewalk Maintenance) Dominic Albanese made a motion to cut \$2,000 from request and fund at \$2,500. Richard Martin second. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4550-110 (Library Personnel) Lee Carrier informed the Committee that the 2006 request of \$110,000 is 21% higher than what was spent in 2005. Cutting \$10,000 from the request would still give them a 10% increase.

01-4550-110 (Library Personnel) Chris Christopolous made a motion to fund \$110,000 as requested. Lori Bliss Hill second. All in favor. Motion carried.

01-4215- (Ambulance) Chris Christopolous supports the Fast Squad and is favorable to paying people for time and training but the Budget Committee requested backup information on the cost of training versus the cost of responding and we have never received the information.

01-4210-635 (PD Gasoline) Lori Bliss Hill asked what the final requested amount is? This line has been \$16,000 then \$24,000 and now \$18,000. Dominic Albanese to review with Chief Richard Crate.

Capital Outlay

01-4902-750 (DPW Equipment) regarding the request for a Roller.

Eric Crate stated that the justification for purchasing a roller did not include trucking, trailer and maintenance. Would like to see the money go into Capital Reserves for Public Works Equipment.

Lee Carrier believes the cost savings are not there to justify purchasing a roller. The cost of salaries will always be there and be paid. The cost of a truck isn't being eliminated. Savings are in the hours a truck isn't running and maintenance of the truck.

Dominic Albanese spoke with Nancy Scovner, and they agree that purchasing a roller is not mission critical.

Eric Crate made a motion to cut \$70,000 from request to purchase a roller. Richard Martin second. All in favor. Motion carried.

Capital Reserves

01-4915-736 (Emergency Services Equipment) Lee Carrier recommended that the requested \$25,000 be put into **01-44915-748 (Public Works Vehicle/Equipment)** and not create another new Capital Reserve Account. Steven Schneider explained that these funds are for a generator for the DPW facility that is to potentially be used as a shelter and/or headquarters during an emergency.

Dominic Albanese recommended that the Town go back to a Capital Inventory and Plan like was in place 3 or 4 years ago.

01-4194-734 (DPW Garages Special Projects) Eric Crate noted that the verbiage needs correcting. "Generator wiring" should be removed.

Action Items

- **Next Meeting: Saturday – January 21st, 2006 8:30 AM at the DPW Facility, in the Ilene P. Reed training room, located at 74 Lockehaven Road, Enfield, NH.**

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn came forward at 8:50 PM from Lori Bliss Hill with a seconded from Gayle Hulva. Motion carried.