

# Budget Committee

## Public Meeting

### December 14, 2004

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Chairman Carrier convened a business meeting of the Budget Committee in the Ilene P. Reed Training Room at the Department of PublicWorks located at 74 Lockehaven Road on Tuesday, December 14, 2004 at 6:04 PM.

**Present:**

Lee Carrier - Chairman, Gayle Hulva - Vice Chairman, Mike Dudley, Eric Crate, David Stewart, Shirley Green, Lori Hill, Richard Martin, Dominic Albanese - Selectman, Chris Christopoulos, April Whittaker – Town Manager, Wendy Huntley - Recorder

- **Administrative**

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 9th meeting was made by Shirley Green and second by Lori Hill with the one change as follows:

Change the word **absent** to **excused**.

Eight in favor. Dominic Albanese and Chris Christopoulos abstain.

The Budget Committee reviewed the 2005 proposed Capital Outlay and Capital Reserve & Trust Funds budgets. Lines Discussed were:

**Dept. 4901 (Capital Outlay)**

Line –710 (Community Building Property) General discussion. This will be a separate warrant article. Questions were raised regarding site work. Dominic is to get a copy of the site plan for next meeting and to get a breakdown of what the \$80,00.00 is for. April Whittaker to email rules and application form to all budget committee members.

Vote taken on approving \$80,000. All in favor.

Line –730 (Whaleback Mount Road Bridge) This will be a warrant article. This item is parked. April Whittaker to get breakdown of what the \$40,00.00 is for.

**Dept. 4902 (Capital Outlay)**

Line –741 (Cruiser) Vote taken on approving \$25,500. All in favor.

Line –750 (DPW Equipment) April Whittaker to get quotes on equipment.

Line –751 (GPS Unit) Committee would like Jim Taylor to provide better numbers on the GPS Unit along with justification for obtaining one. This item is parked.

**Dept. 4909 (Capital Outlay)**

Line –313 (Tax Mapping) This item is in tandem with the GPS Unit. This item is parked.

Line –730 (TIF District) This will be a warrant article. The Board of Selectmen have decided to define the boundaries in 2005. There will be no bonding. The request for \$2,975,000.00 is to be removed. \$40,000.00 may need to be budgeted elsewhere in the budget for engineering services for the TIF District.

**Dept. 4915 (Capital Reserve & Trust Funds)**

Line -710 (Land Acquisition) Decrease request to \$0.00. All in favor.  
 Line -720 (Whitney Hall Renovations) Decrease request to \$5,000.00. All in favor.  
 Line -723 (Municipal Building) Decrease request to \$5,000.00. All in favor.  
 Line -724 (Sand/Salt Facility) Decrease request to \$25,000.00. All in favor.  
 Line -730 (Technology Services) No changes. All in favor.  
 Line -735 (Sidewalks) No changes. All in favor.  
 Line -736 (Emergency Services Equipment) Decrease request to \$0.00. All in favor.  
 Line -737 (Library Technology) Decrease request to \$0.00. Nine members in favor. One opposed.  
 Motion carried.  
 Line -738 (Bridges) No changes. All in favor.  
 Line -742 (Ambulance) No changes. All in favor.  
 Line -743 (Fire Vehicle/Equipment) No changes. All in favor.  
 Line -744 (Revaluation) Decrease request to \$0.00. All in favor.  
 Line -747 (Recreation Facility) Decrease request to \$5,000.00. All in favor.  
 Line -748 (Public Works Vehicle/Equipment) Increase request to \$220,000.00. All in favor.

Under Municipal Building CRF and Whitney Hall CRF, Mrs.. Whittaker advised that she had specifically raised the dollars requested to these reserves to imitate dollars that could be converted into a bond or debt payment, thus causing no or relatively little impact to the tax rate if a facility plan comes to fruition in 2005. She noted that most bond issues are voted down, generally speaking, when there is a sharp impact to the tax rate, and her goal was to not have this happen given the nature of a 2/3rds vote requirement for bonding.

Following discussion the committee deducted \$40,000 from the Whitney Hall and Municipal Bldg reserves, leaving \$5k remaining in each reserve, and converted the \$40,000 into the DPW Equipment reserve. Mrs.. Whittaker advised that the only way not to spike the rate for any bond issuance in 2006 would be to realize that the Committee would have to deduct the additional \$40k in the DPW Reserve in 2006 otherwise there is no mechanism to defray the debt issuance to the tax rate. This will result in an increased tax rate thus giving the appearance that the bond has increased the rate. She requested that this be specifically noted in the Minutes."

Thank you for any consideration, and Happy Holidays to all, AW

- **Action Items**

Dominic is to get a copy of the site plan for next meeting and to get a breakdown of what the \$80,00.00 is for in Line 01-4901-710 (Community Building Property).

April Whittaker to email rules and application form, for the Community Building, to all budget committee members.

April Whittaker to get breakdown of what the \$40,00.00 request is for in Line 01-4901-730 (Whaleback Mount Road Bridge).

April Whittaker to get quotes on equipment in Line 01-4902-750 (DPW Equipment).

- **Next Meeting:**

**Tuesday – January 4th, 2005 6:00PM**

- **Adjournment**

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Motion to adjourn came forward at 9:27 PM from Michael Dudley with a second from Chris Christopoulos. Motion carried.