

Budget Committee

Public Meeting

October 22nd, 2005

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 Lockhaven Road on Saturday October 22nd, 2005 at 8:35 AM.

Present:

Lee Carrier - Chairman, Gayle Hulva - Vice Chair, Eric Crate, David Stewart, Shirley Green, Dominic Albanese - Selectman, Lori Bliss-Hill, Chris Christopoulos, Richard Martin, Wendy Huntley – Recorder

Excused: Judy Finsterbusch,

Guests: Ken Daniels, DPW Director

- **Administrative**

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 14th meeting was made by Lori Bliss-Hill and second by Eric Crate. Lee Carrier would like to have the minutes amended by deleting the “puts and takes” as these figures were just for example purposes.

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 14th meeting as amended was made by Lori Bliss-Hill and second by Eric Crate. All in favor. Christopoulos and Richard Martin abstain.

Review of handout labeled “Review of Significant Items 10-22-05 During FY 2005 Budget Process” presented by Lee Carrier.

Review of handout from Board of Selectmen Recapping 2005 and Significant Initiatives or Changes in 2006 Budget presented by Dominic Albanese.

Gayle Hulva recommends that the Community Building have temporary lighting installed for outside areas this winter. Liability issue.

A motion was made to support the purchase of a filing system for the Police Department with 2005 funds by Chris Christopoulos and second by Lee Carrier. Nine members in favor, one opposed, motioned carried.

A motion whether or not to support changing the culvert pillars at the entrance to the Police Department facility was tabled.

Dominic Albanese informed the Budget Committee members of the following changes to the requested 2006 budget:

- 01-4210-630 from 17,000 to 11,000
- 01-4210-635 from 16,000 to 24,000
- 01-4210-740 from 22,000 to 20,000

A motion was made, to direct the Board of Selectmen to arrange a meeting with Fred Cummings, Richard Martin, Chris Christopolous and Gayle Hulva, regarding Ambulance training issues by Chris Christopolous and second by Gayle Hulva. All in Favor.

- **Break 10:10-10:15**

Review by Budget Committee members regarding their meetings with their assigned departments.

Richard Martin~ Rec Dept.

Met with Marcia Cornell, Carol Felix, Dave Carr, and Nancy Scovner. Each agreed that Gail Taylor should be compensated at a higher rate as swim instructor.

Dave Stewart~Fire Dept.

Met with Dave Crate. Need for more in Capital Reserves for rescue truck, hoses, nozzles and the roof leaks on Union Street. Dave Stewart feels that Dave Crate is conservative with the budget and all items requested seem to be reasonable. Clothing should be completed this year and then should only require a regular replacement schedule. Dave Crate is also requesting a laptop, Dave Stewart is not sure that a laptop is necessary.

Lee Carrier suggested that Town might want to create a “contingency” line to cover such things as increases in fuel costs and postage etc.

Shirley Green questioned why the stump dump was already closing. Remembered that during last year’s budget processing, it was decided that the stump dump would remain open later in the year.

Dominic Albanese to review with Board of Selectmen.

Chris Christopolous~Police Dept.

Met with Chief Crate. The Police Department is starting the process to become accredited. Patrols increases to 24/7. Chris Christopolous also suggested that even though the directive was given for no new initiatives in 2006, the departments should still give their ideas for the future. Chief Crate is looking to have a part time assistant emergency management person. There are lots of funding opportunities out there and we need someone to be able to go out and get them.

Gayle Hulva~Conservation Commission

Met with Leigh Davis. The conservation commission is asking to be level funded in 2006. No equipment needs in 2006.

Gayle Hulva~Ambulance

Met with Fred Cummings. They have applied for a grant to get AED and Oxygen kits. Major issue is salaries. They need a policy on class reimbursements and payroll.

Chris Christopolous informed the Budget Committee that increases in the charges are coming with the contract the Town has with Lebanon for Ambulance services. It will be a 2007 issue.

Lee Carrier and Eric Crate~DPW

Met with Ken Daniels. Lee Carrier and Eric Crate agreed that most of what they discussed with Ken Daniels, was covered already with the handouts given at today’s meeting. Eric Crate added that the newly purchased lawnmower came under budget with the trade-in and that it was a worthwhile purchase. The backhoe should remain a maintenance and repair priority to prolong it’s live.

Review of handout labeled “2006 Budget Puts and Takes” presented by Lee Carrier.

Review of handout labeled “2003, 2004 & 2005 Compared to 2006 Appropriations” presented by Lee Carrier.

Discussion of Budget Committee Member's expectations

Eric Crate: This is the year to be conservative. Would like to keep the % of increase as low as possible.

Richard Martin: In agreement with Eric Crate.

Dominic Albanese suggested that maybe it should be looked into budgeting against a tax rate rather than a % over a previous year.

Lori Bliss-Hill: Believes 2006 is being looked at with a healthy perspective. Agrees with being conservative.

Shirley Green: Would like to continue to consider what is essential for the present and to watch for what may hit in the future.

Gayle Hulva: We're being conservative, but we also have to look at the School Budget. In addition, we pay a lot to Lebanon for services. Believes that the real estate market will correct sometime and it's going to hurt.

Chris Christopolous: Believes that a commitment has to be maintained looking at personnel and operational costs. We need to give good employees the tools to do a good job.

Lee Carrier: Third year on Budget Committee. Feels that 4.5% pay increase is rich but reasonable.

Dominic Albanese doesn't understand how Town is falling behind in wage scale and hopes that new Town Manager can help explain.

Dave Stewart: Happy how this has worked out at about a 3% increase over the 2005 budget. If we could bring it down to last year's costs, we'd be heroes.

Dominic Albanese: The Board of Selectmen has already made cuts to the submitted budgets from department heads. The numbers presented here are not "raw" numbers. The three big items that will need to be addressed in the future are: Salary and Benefits, Emergency Services and Solid Waste. How can we plan for the next five years for these items?

Lee Carrier: We need to keep things stabilized.

- **Action Items**
- **Next Meeting: Thursday – October 26th, 2005 6:00 PM at the DPW facility, 74 Lockhaven Road**
- **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn came forward at 12:25 PM from Lee Carrier with a second from Lori Bliss-Hill. Motion carried.