

Budget Advisory Committee Minutes of November 12, 2008

Present: Charlie Pyle, Bob Arpin, Becky Moul. Nick Wilder and Henry Kundhart arrived after minutes had been voted on.

Meeting opened at 7:00pm

Minutes of October 27th reviewed. Nick motions the minutes are approved with changes, Becky seconds, All in favor.

Planning & Zoning: Lisa Stewart and Sarah Pyle presented the Planning & Zoning budget. They were able to cut their budget by \$499. They are working on Sections of the Master Plan thru volunteer efforts. We will need to have one in place soon whereas the last one was 1995 and we are supposed update every 5 years.

Transfer Station: Becky Moul, WDC chairman presented the budget with the assistance of Tom Anderson. Becky announced to them we are now paying \$30 per ton plus the haul charge of \$225 for paper and plastic. Something we were getting paid \$77.5 (paper) and \$20 (co-mingled) per ton. This is going to have quite an effect on the budget previously determined. Becky and Tom are going to get together and try and come up with some new numbers. This could be a last minute detail in the budget depending on the market. It is the market and world wide financial crisis that is driving these things. Postage and printing prices are in. The propane cost hasn't been decided by the Selectmen as of yet. Tom has not spoken with the toilet rental company yet but we don't anticipate any changes.

We covered all of the Selectmen's budgets next. Bill McAuley, Betsy Hardwick and Tom Anderson presented the various budgets.

The group discussed **Welfare** first. Phyllis (not present at the time) has only requested \$12,000 for eligibility payments. As a group it was decided that due to the economic times we would increase that line to \$18,000. Phyllis came in a little later. We informed her what we did. She said that the requests have increased but that a couple of families requiring a lot of assistance no longer require that assistance. She feels the increase is warranted.

Revaluation: Meeting with the Assessor Jim Rice on Dec 8th at 7pm concerning his proposal. \$30,000 for full eval and \$9,920 for update. We have been invited to attend.

Legal: No Change

Personnel Administration: Medical Insurance is going up 10.5% across the board. We good good experience credits so it won't go up the full 10.5%. Bill will let us know when he gets the number. Short Term Disability is down 35%. Workerman's Comp is going down but does not have the number yet. He will get back to us when he gets that number as well.

Gov't Buildings: Bill said the water bill will probably double. The rates has not been adjusted for 10 years or more. He will get back to us when he gets that number as well. The alarm systems: Bill asks what do we really need? After discussion \$1000 covers 3 buildings (Town Oddices, Town Hall & Highway). We didn't feel that was too much. The telephone for general gov't buildings is in question. Could be for the alarm system. Will get back with us.

Insurance: Going down \$939 to \$20,886.

Street Lighting: Bill announces that PSNH is going up 10% next year. He has suggested shutting off every other light down main street. After discussion it was decided it should be brought up at town meeting for discussion. The town voted in those street lights several years ago.

Regional Association: Removing the \$50 line item for Town Officers Association. Has not been paid out for several years.

Patriotic Purposes: No changes.

Executive: Check into removing one fax. That eliminates the cost of one phone line and related expenses. Bill to check with the Town Clerk on privacy needs. He will get back to us on that.

Landfill Test & Maintenance: Waiting to hear from Bennington. Should be coming down due to consistent good well checks. Maybe \$2500 or \$2000. He will get back to us on that.

Health: No Change

Ambulance: As of now there is no change. He will get back to us on that.

The new Mack truck was discussed. The rep from the state revenue dept informed the Selectmen that it is illegal to do arrangement they spoke of (Take delivery now, let sit, pay later). Gary is going to speak with Mack directly.

We need to discuss the 2009 salary increase. We will meet on November 24th, 2008 at 7:30 with the Selectmen in their office.

There was a short conversation on fuel costs. It was decided that we would discuss it further at the 24th meeting.

Charlie will invite Paul in to discuss Emergency Management on the 17th.

The Treasurer, Building Inspector, Cemetary Trustees and Fire Dept will also be in on the 17th.

Next meeting is November 17, 2008 at 7pm in the Town Offices Meeting Room.

Nick motions to adjourn, Becky seconds, All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Moul, Secretary