

# Budget Advisory Committee Minutes of December 21, 2009

Present: Charlie Pyle, Bob Arpin, Henry Kunhardt and Becky Moul.

Absent: Nick Wilder

Meeting opened at 7:05pm

Charlie motions to accept the minutes of November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with the noted changes. Henry seconds, all in favor.

Charlie motions to accept the minutes of November 9<sup>th</sup> as written. Bob seconds, all in favor.

Henry motions to accept the minutes of November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 with the noted changes. Charlie seconds, all in favor.

Right now, our projected bottom line is \$37,000 over what we appropriated at 2009 Town Meeting.

**Executive:** The size of the town report was discussed. It was unanimous to keep it the size it has been forever. It is less costly and has a historical value. Put \$1100 in that line. All else remains the same.

**Elections & Registrations:** There are some questions on the salaries.

- 1) How does she come up with 5 elections? Town Meeting, Sept Primary, Nov election and one extra just in case. That's 4. What is the 5<sup>th</sup>?
- 2) How are ballot clerks paid? Per hour? Per election?
- 3) What is minimum wage?

**Financial Administration:** No questions/concerns.

**Treasurer:** Nick Wilder has been appointed interim Treasurer. Charlie suggested we pencil in \$10,000 for the auditor. We should have a final number soon and it looks like it will be @ \$10K.

**Legal:** No questions/concerns.

**Revaluations:** Are we looking for a new appraiser? We need to have them do things differently. This will be a conversation with the Selectmen on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>. We need to put in \$1500 for tax maps.

**Personnel Administration:** FICA is up a bit. Employer share of Retirement Fund will go up by \$716 to \$20,716. Need to work on Medical Insurance. Cost is continually going up. New hires pay a % of insurance cost. What are other health insurance options? The BAC recommends the Selectmen appoint a knowledgeable committee (people in the insurance field) to investigate and come forward with a recommendation for this costly issue. These costs are dictated to us.

**Planning & Zoning:** Need a definite confirmation the P&Z Board will not be using Southern Regional Services. This will decrease their budget by \$1732.

**General Government Buildings:** IT contract is new line item. Copier contract is up in cost as all dept's have removed this line from their budgets and it is all covered here except the library. The US Energy Information Center reports heating fuel at \$2.87 for 2010. Water bill will be in soon and we will be able to determine a cost (charges went up). This includes the Town Offices, Town Annex, Horse Trough and Town Hall.

**Cemetaries:** The Groundskeeping line s/b \$12,113 as this is the total cost of the contract. Approximately \$900 a year is given to the town's general fund by the Library Trustees from the Perpetual Care Fund. The Abbey Dodge Trust is "to be used for the care of the various cemeteries in town". The Trustees would like to use this for some headstone repairs.

**Police:** The Police budget is way up. There has been no effort to come in with a lower or flat budget compared to 2009 appropriations. There are many questions with this budget such as number of patrol hours, gun maintenance, cell phones, etc. This budget will be discussed, in depth, on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Ambulance:** Final number for this budget is \$19,118. This cost is dictated to us.

**Fire Dept:** No questions/concerns.

**Building Inspector:** No questions/concerns.

**Emergency Management:** No questions/concerns.

**Highways and Streets:** Recommend keeping the payroll at last year's number of \$190,545. We need a payroll breakdown from Gary. Otherwise ok.

**General Expense Highways:** Review the final expenditures on this budget, as there is room for a decrease on some lines.

**Reseal & Patch:** No questions/concerns.

**Gravel:** No questions/concerns.

**Bridges:** No questions/concerns.

**Street Lights:** What can we do about the streetlights? When questioned the Selectmen were unsure. Charlie would like some put back on for "town perception" and Betsy commented she would like to see one in front of the Town Offices put on for safety reasons. We have been told we cannot use the old lights. New law says that "anything paid for with municipal money is required to be energy efficient". There are also other requirements. It was suggested to the Selectmen that they have some answers for Town meeting because we are sure it will come up.

**Solid Waste:** \$43,000 will be put in the Compactor Haul line. Should the town have Hazardous Waste Day every year? Becky reported that the WDC has recommended to the Selectmen that it is necessary to hold an annual HWD. Ultimately it is the decision of the Selectmen to leave in or take out the \$5000 for HWD. Becky also stated if the Selectmen remove it from the budget the WDC will ask for it to be put back in at town meeting to let the legislative body decide.

**Landfill Test & Maintenance:** No questions/concerns. This cost is dictated to us.

**Health:** There were 3 items added to the list. 1) Meals on Wheels - \$130. 2) CASA for Children - \$500. 3) Milford Area Mediation - \$500. The Red Cross request is up \$150 to \$550. The Selectmen haven't voted on the 3 new ones yet. Sherry placed on budget to be sure their requests were heard.

**Welfare:** No questions/concerns.

**Recreation Commission:** The Directors pay is being questioned. Used to be \$3500 and was changed to \$4000 in 2000. It has been a fixed fee ever since. It is suggested this pay is too high for the work the Director does when compared to the rest of the town department volunteers (fire dept, etc.). There is no job description for the Recreation Director. This position answers to the Recreation Board NOT the BOS. Have not yet received a payroll breakdown.

There needs to be a warrant article to change the way the revolving fund is handled. This budget is large and the number of children in town participating has decreased, as seen in the school numbers. We need to think about change to this operating budget.

**Library:** We would like to see them reduce the New Books line amount of \$10,500.

**Conservation:** No questions/concerns.

**Heritage Commission:** Do we want to support this? The budget has increased to \$2500 from \$300. The cause of the increase is due to people working to get grants for the Town Hall.

**Insurance:** Town Property Insurance. No questions/concerns. This cost is dictated to us.

**Regional Association:** No questions/concerns. This cost is dictated to us.

**Patriotic Purposes:** No questions/concerns.

**Debt Service:** No questions/concerns. This cost is dictated to us.

Next meeting is Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at the Town Offices Meeting Room.

The BAC and Selectmen will meet to finalize various numbers.

Charlie motions we adjourn, Bob seconds; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Moul, Secretary