

Budget Advisory Committee Minutes of December 20th, 2010

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

Meeting opened at 7:10pm. Residents present were Tom Anderson, Maureen VonRosenridge, Abigail Arnold, Steve Griffin, Chief Kulgren and Sarah Pyle.

Charlie informs us due to the new contract with the Chief of Police we need to add \$3650 to the salaries line.

Becky reports that the TS could handle a \$5000 reduction in the bottom line.

Fire-Checking on the fuel usage. Waiting for the end of the year for actual numbers. Charlie asked the Chief if the Fire Wards couldn't look at the overall budget and see if they can't cut back to 2010 budget, plus the \$1274 increase in dispatch costs, to \$54,383. It was suggested to move some money around. They will be spending money on hoses to replace hoses failing pressure tests.

Police-On Call was discussed. Tom Anderson reported "that in 2009 there were 13 on call responses. In 2010 there were 8 on call responses. The police logs are spotty and you can't get a clear indication of activity. The Police Chief is Fair Labor Standards Act exempt". The Mountain is an issue. We need Police and they aren't even scheduled when it's the busiest (Midnight Madness-Friday nights). All patrol officers are part-time. The employment pool for officers is very limited. County radio covers the whole town and can be heard by scanners. Cell phones provide privacy. Perception in town from town meeting is we need the coverage we have for safety. Residents also take into consideration the recommendations of the BAC & BOS. Charlie will speak with Chief Bell and invite him in for the Jan 10th meeting and speak to a lower budget and a comparison between the yearly appropriation and expenditures.

Highways & Streets-Gary Paige has reduced the over time line by \$7100.

Library-Charlie is going to speak with Andy Paul and ask him and the Trustees to re-examine the library budget and see if they can't come back with a flat budget.

General Gov't Bldgs-Groundskeeping is up by \$2500. Something is not adding up. Need to ask the Selectmen. Also, why is the IT contract up so much?

Heritage Commission-Has reduced their budget by \$500.

Health-We recommend to cut \$2000 making bottom line \$1000.

Executive-We need to get the hours to get final numbers. The office is open 16 hours and 16 hours closed door. What about more public hours with full time? There are many unanswered questions. They need to have a plan.

Maureen suggests we look at the retirement system.

We will try to have a meeting on the 10th of January. Charlie will get back with us to confirm and post accordingly.

Becky motions we adjourn, Charlie seconds, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Moul, Secretary