

Budget Advisory Committee Proposed Minutes of February 25, 2013

Present: Charlie Pyle, Abby Dawson, Henry Kunhardt, Bill McAuley. Nick Wilder joined meeting about 6:00 p.m. Also present later in the meeting: Tom Anderson and Mike Branley

Meeting opened at 5:30 pm.

Charlie started the meeting by stating the purpose was to review the Committee's report to the Town on the proposed budget and other warrants. He had previously e-mailed a draft of the warrants. He noted that the report was a requirement of a vote of the 1978 Town Meeting.

First discussed was Article 2 (operating budget). Draft report notes that part-time employees and the Police Chief will receive a 2.5% pay increase. Henry stated that he did not think the Chief was receiving the increase, but that full time employees were receiving a merit pay increase. Charlie disagreed and discussion followed. Reference to Police Chief raise was removed from draft. *Later Mike Branley confirmed various merit pay increases for Highway Personnel.* The Committee provided some additional edits and corrections.

During the discussion of the budget for Highways & Streets, Charlie raised the issue of a replacement for the closed 2nd NH Turnpike Bridge. He laid out two scenarios for everyone to consider in advance of Town Meeting. Assuming a temporary bridge would cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000 the first choice would be to add an amount to the operating budget to come from taxes. The logical place would be under Highways & Streets – Bridges. The Second scenarios would be to add to the operating budget, but also reduced the amount to go from taxation into the road improvement capital reserve and a correspondence reduction in the Pleasant Pond road reconstruction project. Brief discussion followed; the opinions expressed by the Committee did support raising the operating budget.

The Committee reviewed the additional Warrant Articles making some edits and corrections.

The Committee added an explanation for Article 6 (grader): "Purchase of the grader has been a long planned for expense and the Budget and advisory Committee supports this article."

During the discussion on Article 9 (Pleasant Pond milfoil) several Committee members expressed the wish that more Scoby Pond residents were participating, volunteering and donating, similar to efforts by Pleasant Pond residents.

Under articles 12 & 13 after 3% in the first sentence the Committee added "and there are more pressing priorities."

Committee discussed future operating budgets and commented that a 3% annual increase was not sustainable. Several members suggested that the budget process this year was good, but could be better. A letter to the Selectmen was discussed that would include some suggestions. Charlie mentioned that he planned to meet with Mike Branley after Town Meeting to discuss the budget process. The Committee decided to meet at a later date after Charlie and Mike have their discussion.

Charlie will make edits to the report and post report by Friday.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Pyle, Chairman

February 27, 2013