

Budget Advisory Committee Proposed Minutes of January 22, 2014

Present: Charlie Pyle, Abby Dawson, Henry Kunhardt, Nick Wilder and Mike Branley.
Bill McAuley (not present)

Meeting opened at 6:00 pm.

Pyle's goals for tonight's meeting: 1) information to help him prepare the Committee's report for this year's Town Report, 2) discussion of the budget and warrants, 3) review of the budget before next Monday's meeting with the Selectmen and 4) discussion of February meeting dates for the Committee.

Discussion began with the increase to Police payroll of \$5,000. Pyle and Kunhardt questioned whether additional shift hours were being proposed. Branley explained that the increase included hours for administrative assistance to the Chief. Specifically, Administrative Assistant Wendy Brien-Baker would be providing several hours of assistance each. The Committee agreed that this was a good idea and expressed the hope that it would lead to improved public information.

The Committee asked Branley about the proposed bond for Town Hall renovation. He provided some general outlines. Bond would not affect the budget until 2015. He has discussed option with the NH Bond Bank and will provide the Committee with some information.

Abby Dawson joined the meeting

The Committee reviewed various budgets starting with Executive and concern over increased hours. Branley explained that this year additional time will be needed for analyzing the reinstated inventory forms. He anticipates in future years more projects. Pyle and Kunhardt both agreed on the need for special projects.

Members of the Committee expressed concern over increases to General Government Building. The Committee was not in favor of the new maintenance position, believing that volunteers and highway personnel could handle the responsibilities. Allen Treadwell will be coming to next Monday's Selectman's meeting to discuss IT issues. The Committee discussed at length the building repair/service line. The Committee believes that this line could be reduced by \$5,000. Pyle also questioned the amount budgeted for heating fuel; Branley will review.

The Committee discussed the Highway Department's budget, especially hours for part timers. Several members expressed the belief that some expenses and hours could be reduced. Pyle stated that he believed fuels for the Highway department could be reduced for an overall savings of up to \$5,000.

Kunhardt stated that we would like the budget to be reduced in order to minimum repairs to Town Hall, including a new heating system. Dawson agreed to put together a list of the items discussed before next Monday's meeting with the Selectmen. Pyle reviewed the February calendar for potential meeting dates and will e-mail options.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Pyle, Chairman
January 23, 2014