

**Joint Budget Sub Committee
Minutes
December 10, 2014**

In attendance: Jeff Nutting, Tom Mercer, Kevin O'Malley, Maureen Sabolinski, Miriam Goodman, Sally Winslow, Susan Dewsnap, Jim Dacey, Paula Mullen, Susan Rohrbach

Discussion:

1. Rotate chairs again this year--yes.
2. Auditors here. Will be back on the 7th. Running about a month late.

OPEB study this spring. 10,000. Get grant every other year to do it.

Jim and Susan do mini audits of the departments. Rotate around. Transfer center, library, etc. In house way of check and balance. Observe practice, how they are handling cash. Make recommendations.

3. Fiscal policies are attached to the agenda,
4. FY 15 budget.- Discussed hiring another custodian in January for High School.

Will have a firefighter's arbitration award. 400,000 settlement.

In the future, minimum wage will go up a dollar a year every January. Not this year. Election workers, library page, etc. Small amount of money.

5. Capital budget--Will sit down with the departments after the first of the year. Mid to late January with Town Council Subcommittee.

6. Jeff needs to do a fiscal forecast. Insurance premiums going up. Retirement funds. School enrollment study? High School up, elementary down. Wild cards is housing development on 140 and Charter. Charter will be a way down the road...

7. Fiscal 16 Budget. Town due by December 31st. 2.6 Million revenue increase. But Jeff worried about the state budget cuts being discussed. Schools looking at 1.4-1.5.

All town collective bargaining agreements expire this year. Schools next year.

2017 looks much more challenging than 2016.

Budget won't get to Finance Committee until March.

Currently have 3,073,000 in free cash. Will use for capital.

8. Economic Development Committee meeting next week. Have one proposal for Emmons Street for 500,000. Developer doesn't have a tenant yet. Land on Pond Street - proposal for a medical building and a hotel. But also 1-2 bedroom apartments. Keegan and Ficco development coming next year? Congregate living for elderly on East Central.

Turf field will go out to bid. Senior Center building committee meets next week to select an architect. Library committee in the works.

Modulars at DT coming down. In the capital budget. If Emmons a Street comes down, Jeff will be looking for money to relocate the Rec Department. Aubuchons moving out. Rent space. Would need to come out of this year's budget.

Next Meeting--early March TBD.

Meeting adjourned 7:45.