

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2012

Members Present: David Graham, Jeff Schall, Lisa Kardell, Bob Demers, Glen Eastman, Reuben Rajala, Terry Oliver
Absent: Terry Rhoderick
Excused: Mike Waddell
Other: Robin Frost, Denise Vallee, Nathan Corrigan, Rick Eichler, Jeff Stewart, Austin Holmes, Lisa White

Call to order by Jeff Schall at 6:30 pm

Approve Minutes The minutes of the December 11th meeting were not completed and will be voted on at the next meeting.

Committee Appointments: It was noted that Debra Ackerman was hired to take minutes, but that she was not present.

Fire Department Budget: The entire Fire Department budget was presented by Chief Eichler and reviewed line by line. The total proposed budget is \$159,061 for 2013, up \$8,818 over the 2012 budget. 3,000 hours of training were provided in 2012. Bob Demers asked how many times the fire truck in Cascade went out. Rick replied that he would have to get back to him. Rick stated that 24 Full and 9 DOT physicals were needed for the department and a discussion took place as to why it is important to have firefighters take the appropriate physical.

Recreation Department Budget: Jeff Stewart presented the Recreation and Parks Department budgets and reviewed them line by line. The proposed 2013 budget for the Recreation Department is \$130,930, a decrease of \$7,487 compared to the 2012 budget. The proposed 2013 budget for the Parks Department is \$34,914, an increase of \$1,187.00. A discussion concerning the proposed dugouts on the Common took place and a Warrant Article will be included in the 2013 warrant so that residents can vote. Bob Demers recommended that the Senior Program consider adding trips to the casino in Oxford, Maine. Reuben Rajala commented that he felt funds should be included in the budget to provide the Porta-pottie for the Common. He said there are many tourists who make use of the park and that we should provide this convenience.

Cemetery, Highway, MSW/Recycling and Street Lights/Gas Budgets: Buddy Holmes presented the budgets line by line for the budget committee. The proposed 2013 Cemetery Budget is \$27,109, an increase of \$5,433 compared to the 2012 budget. The increase is due to the addition of one of the two part-time employees that were cut from the 2012 budget. The proposed 2013 Highway Budget is \$660,200, an increase of \$5,841 over the 2012 budget. This increase is largely due to the 2% wage increase. The winter sand and vehicle repairs line items were both reduced by \$1,000.00. It was agreed that the oil usage for the Public Works Garage should be monitored closely and that other energy sources/systems should be considered to provide heat in the winter. Denise suggested that an Energy Committee be formed to work on energy conservation/improvements for all Town buildings. The Street Light Budget is down \$154.00 from last year and is \$50,533 for 2013. The Midnight Savings Program has not been in effect long enough to tell exactly what the overall savings will be. A discussion took place regarding our road infrastructure and the possibility of an engineering study being done on Spring Road. The MSW/Recycling 2013 proposed budget is \$328,113, an increase of \$7,756 over the 2012 budget. The 2% wage increase and \$9,250 due the City of Berlin for the Cates Hill Landfill closure accounts for this increase. A \$5,000 reduction occurred as we no longer have to pay to have Freon removed from appliances.

General Discussion: A comment was made by Glen Eastman that a School Budget Committee should be formed.

Bob Demers said that a rate should be established for outside use of equipment. Buddy stated that he has the rates established by FEMA. Buddy agreed that for plowing and garbage pickup at the schools that all three towns should be paying their fair share.

A motion was made by Glen for the Board of Selectmen to look at establishing equipment rates for plowing and also average trash pickup at the two schools and for any other Town agencies that provide services. Terry Oliver seconded the motion and all were in favor. Jeff mentioned that the Recreation maintains the fields used by Ed Fenn and the High School, but that he also uses the two gymnasiums and the Ed Fenn Tee Ball Field for Recreation Department programs. Jeff Schall commented that the Recreation Department budget had gone down \$34,000 over the past four years.

Adjournment: Motion made by Glen Eastman, seconded by Bob Demers; all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.