



TOWN OF HAMPSTEAD

BUDGET COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday November 11, 2010

PRESENT: Proctor Wentworth, Chip Hastings, Tracey McCormick, Bob O'Brien, Brian Vass

VISITORS: Jim Stewart, Penny Williams, Joe Beaudoin, Tina Harrington, Joe Tabbi

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Tracey McCormick called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

New Business:

Discussion of 2011 budget-

The Budget Committee noted that they have the budget for the town and have attended the meetings to gather information. The School budget has been distributed to the members, but it is not the final amount. The tuition for Pinkerton Academy will not be released until November 23rd. Whereas not all of the members had a chance to review the school proposed budget, they decided to discuss the town budget.

Chairman McCormick asked each member to state any area of concern or questions regarding the budget. There were a few questions, one on the chipper for the highway department, one regarding the town beach utility account; status on the cemetery expected work (overall budget) and the replacement of the police cruisers.

The response regarding the town beach and utilities-

Selectman Stewart was asked what makes up the line item called beach utilities because it is level funded for 2011 but yet is already overspent. He stated that the office will look into the question. There were some questions regarding the status of the beach and the water issues. Mr. Hastings asked if the sand that keeps going into the water could be dredged out and put back onto beach. Selectman Stewart explained that they could not do that and that any dredging needed to go through the process with DES. They are trying to find ways to stop that flow of sand into the beach.

The response regarding the Chipper-

The highway department is looking for a chipper and Selectman Stewart explained that renting it every time a chipper is needed is time consuming and difficult to schedule. The proposed chipper would be used by the highway department and well as by the grounds/cemetery departments. Selectman Stewart stated that it is actually a cost saving measure for the town. Ms. McCormick asked if the cost would be shared amongst those departments. Mr. Hastings stated that a chipper is long overdue. The roads and water holes need cutting back and the work could get done when it is needed instead of lining up all the work to be done at one time to be able to rent the chipper. The amount is \$5,000 over 5 years. Selectman Stewart noted that there is a new mower in the budget for 2011 that will replace an old worn down mower and the cost is to be split with cemeteries and buildings and grounds.

The response regarding the cemeteries and the status of the work that was scheduled.-

Is there a written plan of what they will need to fix and an idea of what it will cost? The agreement with the town was that they would do it over three years. Selectman Stewart explained that some of the work that was planned did not happen whereas they had so many trees that needed to be removed from the various cemeteries. The Budget Committee asked that the Cemetery Trustees be issued a personal invitation to the next meeting on the budget so that everyone could be updated as to the status of the cemeteries. Selectman Stewart noted that the Cemetery Trustees are looking to see if they are able to access some of the cemetery trust funds for maintenance on the cemeteries. Mr. Vass, also a Trustee of the Trust Fund, noted that the Cemetery Trustees are held accountable to

the Attorney General's office. The fencing around cemeteries is to be a town responsibility, but a fence could be anything such as a rock wall.

The response to the Police Cruiser.

Ms. McCormick brought up her concern with the police department budget, specifically the cruiser replacement line. For the three years she has been on the cruiser has been in the budget and no other alternatives have been discussed. Both Mr. Wentworth and Mr. Hastings explained past history with the vehicles and that it was agreed in the past to include the cruisers as a budget item because it was an operational expense. They discussed cutting the budget for the vehicle in half and getting a new cruiser every other year. Mr. Hastings explained that the cruisers put a lot of wear and tear on them. Driving one is not the same as driving your own car, you accelerate more often and put more pressure on the engine, as well as the fact that they spend a lot of time idling. The committee discussed the age of the fleet and then asked what happens to the old cars that are replaced. The response was that some are used by another department or they are sold. Overall the Chief did reduce his budget, with the inclusion of the new officer, which the Budget Committee recognized. Chief Beaudoin showed up to answer any further questions. Ms. McCormick stated that she didn't want to rehash the cruiser issue, but would like to see in the future other alternatives to fund the cruisers. Chief Beaudoin explained that the unmarked car is 10 years old, the ACO car is 13 years old and the expedition is 8 years old. He noted that any police department will have cruisers sitting at the station not in use, but whereas he are sitting close to the road, it makes it more visible to someone driving by that it looks like a lot of cars, but it isn't.

Chief Beaudoin was asked about the new station proposal. He explained that it is design ready and that diagrams have been sent to local contractors and that they are hoping in the next few weeks to have a cost to build. The original plan was around \$2.3 million and he told them the revised one needs to be under \$2 million. It is proposed with 1500 less square feet, a single story structure and only 3 to 3 ½ feet into the ledge, so less blasting should be needed. In the initial plan they had the cost of putting in the road, which is now there as well. The road, water and electrical lines are already in the area. He noted that the highway department leach field is adjacent to the site and they will see if they can tie into it. He is hoping that the cost will come in \$200,000 to \$300,000 less. Chief Beaudoin was asked about his current building and the repairs needed. He has \$3,000 to do the roof, but unless the windows get replaced, doing the roof won't make any difference. He also needs to do work in the bathroom. He is waiting to see what money is available at the end of the year. It is estimated that he will need \$5,000 for the roof and windows and \$5,000 for the bathroom. If he has to, he will add the money into the 2011 budget. Mr. Vass asked about the cruiser and whether or not it went out to bid. The Chief explained that they use the state bid. The state puts out a proposal and then any town/city can use the same vendor. They have been using a company in Massachusetts that has been on the state list. They are a one stop shopping center. Instead of getting the car one place, taking it to be painted, then to get the radios in, this place does it all and gives you the finished car. Mr. Vass suggested that maybe the bids could be done on a regional basis, rather than just a state process. Ms. McCormick asked about any warrant articles other than the police station. The library will be having one for their maintenance fund for \$10,000. The union is in final negotiations and hopefully will have an amount soon. Selectman Stewart noted that the first year of the contract had an increase of about \$19,000 and he is hoping that the amount for the first part of this contract is in the same range. He noted that there are 3 additional officers in this contract compared to the first one.

Schedule of upcoming meeting:

The committee discussed their upcoming meetings. The next meeting of the Budget Committee is for December 9th at 7:00 when they can discuss the warrant articles, school budget and police union (only union due up this year).

November 16th is a budget meeting on the town budgets at 6:30.

November 23rd is a school board meeting at the Town Hall

January 12, 2011 is the final budget hearing on the town budget.

Chairman of the Budget Committee will confirm with Committee when they need to discuss and vote on their recommendations.

Chairman McCormick noted that two members are up this year, herself and Mr. Vass (who took the seat of Mrs. Routhier). The period for sign up will be January 19, 2011 through January 28, 2011.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of September 9 were accepted on a voice vote.

MEMBER'S COMMENTS/REPORTS:

Mr. O'Brien stated that he has been in touch with his departments and noted that the Town Clerk was looking at some record preservation which might be a warrant article.

Mr. Hastings stated that he had gone over some of the Highway Department budget with the Road Agent, but had not yet contacted Solid Waste. Mrs. Harrington announced that Solid Waste currently has all of the services out for proposal and probably won't have a budget until later in the process.

Visitors Comments:

There were none

Next Meeting: Thursday December 9th 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from C.Hastings, seconded by B.O'Brien, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

For the Committee

Secretary
Proc Wentworth