

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
Town Council Chambers
PUBLIC HEARING
Thursday, January 24, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Oliver called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Chair Sandra Oliver, G. Kearney, J. Danforth, V. Lembo, M. Sorel, J. Pieroni, S. Doyon and T. Keach.

D. Argo, C. Humphries, J. Hyde excused

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 1/10/08

*J. Danforth motioned to approve. Seconded by M. Sorel
Vote unanimously in favor*

BUSINESS

Hooksett Central Water Precinct

J. Pieroni motioned to recommend the Central Water Precinct and Village Water Precinct Budget as presented. Seconded by J. Danforth.

Roll Call vote unanimously in favor.(2 abstained)

6:0- 2 abstained

Open Public Hearing at 7:05

Central Water Precinct

Bill Alois presented the Central Water Budget.

G. Kearney: Why are the rents for 2008 going down?

Irene Beaulieu: They are going up but the revenues have gone up because of usage. It is a safe number. The rates are not going up. The overall increase in the budget is 4.2%.

The increases are supplies, the contract with Manchester Water Works has increased, hydrant maintenance, and tools needed for the office. We are maintaining another pump station. There is an increase in inspections based on an estimate of new construction.

Salaries also increased a little.

No rate increase.

T. Keach: On Page 2, what is private fire services?

Irene Beaulieu: They are private service to private properties with sprinklers or hydrants on their property which they pay a service for.

T. Keach: On Page 3, deficit spending for payroll?

Irene Beaulieu: We had to hire someone last year to help out with hydrants. We don't anticipate doing that again this year.

T. Keach: Construction inspection?

Irene Beaulieu: We had hoped to spend only 29,000 but with Berry Hill and a couple other projects like Hooksett Landing, Walgreen, and CVS. Fortunately, we did have revenue to cover it.

G. Kearney: 35,000 for a new vehicle?

Irene Beaulieu: We would like to get a new pick up truck. The one we have now is a 2000 with over 100,000 miles and it is used to plow out hydrants.

G. Kearney: How many meters does 37,000 cover?

Irene Beaulieu: Each new meter cost 155 dollars. We are replacing meters, at our cost, to drive by meters.

V. Lembo: What is \$15,000 for legal?

Irene Beaulieu: We give our attorney \$15,000 at the beginning of the year and that covers all our legal costs for the year.

T. Keach: Did the Town Administrator approach you regarding joint or centralized purchasing?

Irene Beaulieu: No, however we do purchase our health insurance through the town.

Warrant Articles

#5 - \$10,000 for the Water Storage Capital Reserve Fund #1. \$72,656.00 in the fund as of June 2007.

#6 - \$24,501 for New Construction and Capital Improvement Capital Reserve Fund #2. This is for new mains needed as a result of new construction. New developers pay (#9, #6, #8) They pay a source development fee of which some goes to capital construction. \$126,912 in the fund as of June 2007

#7 - \$10,000 for Water Precinct Capital Reserve Fund #3 – Repair and Replacement of Main and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. in Capital Reserve Fund.
\$65,000 currently in the fund

#8 - \$24,501 for Water Precinct Capital Reserve Fund #4 – Standpipe Relining Capital Reserve Fund.

\$18,941 currently in this capital reserve fund.

#9 \$58,004.00 for Capital Reserve Fund #5 - Source Development & Infrastructure Preservation Capital Reserve Fund.
\$339,994.00 currently in this reserve fund.

The contact with Manchester Water will expire in 2010.

***M. Sorel motioned to close public. Seconded by J. Danforth.
Vote unanimously in favor***

Close public at 7:35 pm

***G. Kearney motioned to accept the budget and the warrant articles for Central Water.
Seconded by J. Peironi.
Roll call vote unanimously in favor***

Hooksett Village Water Precinct

Open Public Hearing 7:38 PM

Presentation and review

Roger Hebert: Revenue projection reviewed. The breakdown of the budget and what we had in 2006/2007/2008

The rates will remain unchanged.

The rates are reviewed yearly.

The Department of Environmental Services requires the rates be graduated.

There is a \$6392 increase over last years budget, which 1.4%. It is for legal and audit.

The auditors rates were going up. There was a decrease in maintenance of mains. Wages and insurance went up and engineering went down by \$10,000.

\$70,000 for insurance which is liability, vehicle, water tanks, wells, and a new booster station. We compete the insurance but not every year. Health insurance is through the town.

Warrant Articles

#8 - \$50,000 expendor from the Hooksett Water Precinct New Source Trust Fund for well tests.

#9 \$3000 expendor from the Hooksett Village Water Precinct Tank Maintenance Trust Fund for Dechlorinator.

Employees were given a cost of living raise.

#10 -\$16,032.00 expendor from the Hooksett Village Water Precinct Water Main Trust Fund for Back-up well Redevelopment Rehabilitation.

#11 - \$43,816 to be placed in the Hooksett Village Water Precinct Truck Trust Fund to be offset by funds received from Pike Industries. This is money for a vehicle. This money is from Pike industries for the use of our land.

#12 -

#13 Total budget or \$588,071

Close public hearing

V. Lembo motioned to accept the Village Water Precinct budget and Warrant Articles. Seconded by J. Danforth.

Roll call unanimously in favor.

Hooksett Sewer Commission Budget

V. Lembo motioned to accept the Sewer Budget as presented. Seconded by M. Sorel. Vote unanimously in favor

Presentation and review

M. Sorel motioned to open public hearing. Seconded by S. Doyon

\$393 decrease in budget due to the recalculation of the 3 million dollar bond payment. This will go up next year (2009-2010) due to plant expansions. The plant will take a year and half to build. Chemicals will switch from gas chlorine to chemical chlorine. Hooksett and Berlin are the only two towns that still use gas chlorine. Chemical chlorine is safer but more expensive. We have continued to use gas because it is more efficient and use less of it.

We use 36,000 gallons of water a day. We have tried to get better rates without success. You can't take water from the Merrimack without a permit from DES, because the system we will be using will produce cleaner water, we will be recycling it to clean the belts.

The wage increase is 4%; 2 for cola and 2% merit.

Sludge Management – we pay to rent the hoppers, we pay a fuel surcharge as well.

In the last week it has gone from 119 per load to 213 per load. I used the 119 estimate for the budget

Line 39 – Engineering Const. EPA mapping

We have to prepare a map of the system including surfaces, the manholes and the depth for all systems. We have contacted an engineering company that will produce a GIS system. There will be an aerial map which will cost \$17,000 and is required by EPA.

All the sewer capacity has been sold. To expand, we are going out to bid next month. The problem is last year it was 6 million and this year it is 8 million.

We don't have 8 million.

The Merrimack River study is \$1500.

T. Keach: How much capacity are you actually at.

B. Kudrick: Our yearly flow is 825,000 gals and the plant is 1.1 million. The commission has sold off the balance and used that money (3 million). When the plant is fully built it will be 2.2 million

B. Kudrick: Sludge management is done by our trucks and we take it to a turn key. We have a permit to build a compost site but we haven't done it because of the neighbors complaints. We need to upgrade the plant first. The Warrant Article was not put forward because they were turned down for two years. The Commission would like to show the public that they listened and will come back next year with a warrant article.

T. Kreach: How many that are sold have been used?

B. Kudrick: About 300 maybe more. Carriage Hill 120 units. Berry Hill, no units yet and have paid for 190. MS&G has enough for 80 homes beyond Heads Pond. Granite Heights has 44 units.

G. Kearney: If the TIF district is not completed in 3 years, and Cabelas doesn't do anything until 2009, do we lose the 1.3 million for the sewer. The 16 million from the developer, is there a time frame on that for expiration?

B. Kudrick: The TIF is 3 years which is June of 2009. So if Cabelas doesn't come back until 2009, we will have to fund a 1.3 million dollar sewer bond.

B. Kudrick: 1.2 million is projected income with expenses of 1.4 million. The difference comes from interest and penalties.

G. Kearney motioned to Continue Public Hearing to March 13, 2008. Seconded by J. Pieroni.

Vote unanimously in favor

Expenditure Report

Municipal

C. Soucie: The operating budget expenditures are at 44% with 50% of the year expired. Expenditures paid for the whole year are included. It will be interesting to see how the Highway department makes out for the winter after January.

Family Services has spent 61% of their budget.

Fire is at 52% because they have been working on their computer networking and a repair to one of their cisterns. Some expenses have been paid for the full year.

T. Keach: Assessing is below budget due to personnel.

V. Lembo: The Fire Department wages are different over two months.

C. Soucie: They have holiday pay due the first of the pay month and therefore it was incurred in November and should have been in December. In July there is an extra contractual payment.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moyniha