

OFFICIAL
TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Special Meeting
Wednesday, June 2, 2004

PRESENT: D. Belanger (excused), Chairman DiBitetto, P. Fitanides, M. Jolin (excused), P. Loiselle, G. Longfellow, M. Ruel, P. Rueppel, D. St. Pierre, E. Dionne (Acting Town Administrator)

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman DiBitetto called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

BUDGET WORKSHOP:

Diane Savoie, Finance Director briefly explained the default budget spreadsheet. She stated that per council's instructions, 2003-2004 pay increases for non-union employees were not included in the default budget and that the DRA was in agreement with this procedure. She added that starting next year, all salaries would be included in the default budget.

Fire Department - Fire Chief Williams explained his department's budget and updated the council with the correct contract figures.

Library – Mary Farwell, Library Trustee explained the Library budget and added that if needed, Library hours would be reduced.

Assessing Department – Sandy Piper, Director explained the department's budget and stated that the town would have to hire a full time assessor in order to keep up with new developments and businesses.

Police Department – Police Chief Stephen Agrafiotis explained his department's budget and added that rising fuel prices largely caused the default budget. He added that given the current default budget, four full time positions would not be filled.

Communications – Police Chief Agrafiotis explained the Communications budget. He stated that four positions would be filled with the default budget and that this is necessary to be able to handle the amount of calls going through dispatch.

Building Department – Ken Andrews, Code Enforcement Officer explained that higher fuel prices largely caused the default budget.

Heritage Commission – Katie Northrup, Heritage Commission Chairman stated that the department has been operating without budget since its conception in July, 2003 and asked for funds this year.

Tax & Town Clerk – Leslie Nepveu, Town Clerk/Tax Collector explained the department's budget and stated that the Tax Department is now fully staffed.

Family Services – Joy Buzzell, Director explained the department's budget and added that the Town Welfare is the only line item that could be reduced.

Forest Fire – Harold Murray, Warden explained that \$2,500.00 under Forest Fire budget has always been given back to the town every year for the past five or six years and stated that it is for Mutual Aid Contract with other towns in case a state fire in the area should occur.

Highway Department – Dale Hemeon, Manager explained that the factors for the default are wages and high fuel prices, along with winter road maintenance expenses.

Parks & Recreation – Dale Hemeon, Superintendent explained that wages line is a factor for the default budget. He added that Fun in the Sun registration for this year is exceptionally high and that the program will have to cut down on field trips.

Solid Waste – Diane Boyce, Superintendent explained that high fuel prices caused concerns. She added that the department had picked up 250 additional stops for trash pick-up and that she added 2 more personnel, one for trash collection and one for Saturday office staff.

Community Development – Charles Watson, Town Planner explained his department's budget and added that as of now his department has processed more development plans than the entire year of 2002.

Emergency Management – Al Dionne, Director explained his department's budget and added that the higher cost of supplies was a big factor in the default.

Cemetery Commission – Wallace Emerson, Commission Chairman explained his line item and added that there are some concerns with computer problems.

Administration Department – D. Savoie explained that computer contract and maintenance and hydrant maintenance were factors for the default.

Finance Department – D. Savoie stated that the only difference in the line item is salary.

D. Savoie stated that excess funds could be taken from 2004-2005 paving expense line item.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

D. St. Pierre moved to enter non-public session at 8:25 pm under RSA 91-A:3, II, (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. Motion seconded by P. Fitanides. **Roll call vote unanimous.**

D. St. Pierre moved to exit non-public session at 8:43 pm. Motion seconded by P. Loiselle. **Roll call vote unanimous.**

The Council issued a statement that the non-public minutes would not be divulged at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

Michael J. DiBitetto
Town Council Chairman