

**TOWN OF JAFFREY
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2016**

Members present: Norm Langevin, Kevin Chamberlain, Bob Schaumann, James Moore, Jack Belletete.

Staff: Town Manager Caron, Administrative Assistant Zola, Randall Heglin, DPW

Guests: Selectman MacIsaac, Selectman Rothermel, Nick Handy (Monadnock Ledger)

Excused: Sue Greenough, Jan Wilkins

Meeting opened: 6:07 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS: Reviewed minutes of Jan. 14th meeting. Belletete made a motion to accept minutes as presented, seconded by Chamberlain. Vote was taken - all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION FOR WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT – Randall Heglin

There are 14,200 feet of pipes that are recommended to be replaced as part of the \$3.74M bond. A study was conducted to determine the pipe condition and schedule of replacement with priority weighted on critical facilities (Schools, Nursing Home, Millipore) who would need better fire flow. In addition, the top scoring projects were Mountain Road (Section 1 & 2) and Main Street. The Board of Selectmen have a long term plan for increasing the water rates gradually to pay for replacement. Randy will be investigating loans and grants to offset the amount the water users will have to pay. The Town has been preapproved for the State DES State Revolving Fund which typically includes a principal forgiveness component, which has customarily been in the 10-25% range. It was discussed that by delaying the project may increase the risk of more breaks, less system reliability and the overall cost is expected to increase yearly. Voters at the 2015 Annual Meeting approved design funding; Design is mainly complete, however, the Town may not an actual bid price for the project for Town Meeting, as NHDES has not completed its review. Absent a bid price, the Town would have to rely upon the engineer's estimate.

PRESENTATION FOR SEPTAGE PLANT UPGRADE – Randall Heglin

The septage plant is operating adequately however when designed and constructed, the Town could not envision the amount of septage currently accepted at the plan. Currently, the high volume of septage is a significant revenue generator for the town, however, this increased amount of septage does impact the plant's efficiency and has the potential to occasionally fall out of compliance with EPA limits. By making the plant more efficient with this \$1.0M bond, the

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probability of violating EPA limits would be significantly reduced, and sewer volume from large users such as Millipore would be able to be more readily treated located instead of having Millipore transport some of its waste to other facilities. Revenues from receiving septage would more than pay for the anticipated debt service.

OTHER – The Budget Committee participated in a lengthy discussion regarding the present state of the department budgets reviewed thus far. Although 5% reductions were requested, the Town Manager is recommending a budget which results in a 2.8% decrease in the operating budget. Reduction in staffing will have to happen to meet the 5% reduction target, which may not be supported at Town Meeting. It was suggested to provide departments with more advance notice for next year's budget directives in order to provide time to look at more systemic changes to the way services are delivered.

ADJOURNMENT - A motion to adjourn the meeting made by Belletete seconded by Chamberlain.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27p.m.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 21, 2016 6:00 P.M.

AT THE JAFFREY TOWN OFFICE.