

**LONDONDERRY BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Minutes**

**December 15, 2009**

The Budget Committee meeting was held in the Moose Hill Conference Room, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry NH 03053.

Committee Members Present: Richard Dillon, Tom Dolan, Jay Hooley, Todd Joncas, Don Jorgensen, Deb Nowicki, Mark Oswald.

7:00 PM I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Oswald at 7:00 pm.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. None

III. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Opportunity to discuss the “Safer Grant” and Articles 4 through 9 was opened by Mark Oswald to the committee and subsequent votes were held to obtain levels of agreement / disagreement to support the various Articles and the Grant. It was stated that there was no substantive change to the Safer Grant than what had already been presented by the Fire Chief at an early Town Council meeting. It was also decided to vote again on this night to re-establish agreement / disagreement to support the Safer Grant.

A. A motion was made by Don Jorgensen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Todd Joncas to open discussion regarding the Safer Grant and voted on as follows.:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald	X			
<b>Totals</b>	7	0	0	0

It was stated that there was no substantive change to the Safer Grant than what had already been presented by the Fire Chief at an early Town Council meeting. It was also decided to vote again on this night to re-establish agreement / disagreement to support the Safer Grant.

Whether or not we should support adding fire fighter staff at this time via the “Safer Grant” which would fund them for 2 years was questioned. It was question primarily due to the fact that the town would then have to fund them on an ongoing basis after 2 years plus whether or not at that time we would in fact need them based upon the level of growth that actually occurs in the north end of town near the airport versus the anticipate level of growth that same area.

It was also argued that due to the length of time to hire, train and have a fire fighter fully ready and capable to fully perform the duties associated with the job, that it may be prudent to support the grant in order to have fire fighters ready should the need be there in two years.

It was also mentioned that ambulatory revenues have diminished by \$40K to \$50K over the past couple of years.

Overtime considerations were also discussed and it was mentioned that it did not really make and argument to support the new staff.

Staff for the new station already exists in the current station.

B. A motion was made by Tom Dolan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don Jorgensen to support the Safer Grant and voted on as follows.:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon		X		
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley		X		
Todd Joncas		X		
Don Jorgensen		X		
Deb Nowicki		X		
Mark Oswald	X			
<b>Totals</b>	2	5	0	0

C. A motion was made by Don Jorgensen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich Dillon to support Article 4:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald	X			
<b>Totals</b>	7	0	0	0

D. A motion was made by Jay Hooley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Todd Joncas to support Article 5:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald	X			
<b>Totals</b>	7	0	0	0

E. A motion was made by Todd Joncas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Don Jorgensen by to support Article 6:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			

Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald	X			
<b>Totals</b>	7	0	0	0

It was discussed the Operating Budget represented an overall increase of 2.44% over the previous year and did not include the current collective bargaining agreements current under negotiation.

F. A motion was made by Don Jorgensen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Nowicki to support Article 7:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald	X			
<b>Totals</b>	7	0	0	0

G. A motion was made by Todd Joncas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rich Dillon by to support Article 8:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald	X			
<b>Totals</b>	7	0	0	0

H. A motion was made by Rich Dillon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Todd Joncas to support Article 9:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald	X			
<b>Totals</b>	7	0	0	0

I. School District Budget Discussion:

- Todd Joncas asked if any further information was discussed regarding bond rates coupled with what our cost would be when we compare bonds (debt issuance) as a way to fund extensive repairs, upkeep and maintenance needed versus an increase to the maintenance trust to fund it. It was also mentioned that the amount of items that need repair may have accumulated to a point whereby it could be considered a capital project by the sheer dollar amount that may be required to perform such repairs.
  - Peter Curro indicated that bond rates as of today would be ~3% - 3.75% for a 10-year note.

- Todd Joncas asked if there was any stepped plan to implement all of the repairs needed so that perhaps we could avoid adding more debt and fund the repairs via the maintenance trust.
  - Peter Curro indicated that there has been a 12 – year plan created that outlined a stepped plan. This addressed the concern of using bond funds now for items that could have waited a few years. It was further thought that the maintenance trust, at the current level, was not adequate to fund all of the repair and maintenance planned (needed). The idea for the bond would be to cover the numerous items that added up to ~\$2M would in fact be able to be accomplished in the near term. The current maintenance trust level of \$450K simple doesn't cover all of the needs. The maintenance trust was set up for smaller \$30K, \$50K repair and maintenance items, but was used for more expensive repairs recently that had to be done – such as the expensive track repair. However, if the maintenance trust could be funded to a level of \$550K to \$600K annually, then it should cover the needs of the stepped plan spread out over the 12 years. An added caution is the future expense of certain repairs, for example waiting a few years for the roof repair when cost may be higher.
  
- Deb Nowicki asked how the bus contract was going.
  - Peter Curro indicated that the budget considers the current 6-year contract with Goffstown Trucking and that he and the School District is looking at the cost of continuing with the option in the current contract or what it might cost to go with “vendor ‘B’”.
  
- Peter Curro reminded the Budget Committee as to what the School Board asked in that the School District moved 2 new SPED teachers from the operating budget into the AARA Grant funds and put back ~\$30K for tech equipment. This enabled items to be added back into the budget that were removed.
  
- Mark Oswald asked if there was a list of equipment that was added back into the budget.
  
- Peter Curro indicated that January 5<sup>th</sup>'s meeting will show how much came out of the budget and how much was added back in. The net was \$72K.
  
- Mark Oswald offered for John Robinson, School Board Member to provide any of his positions as a member of the School Board.
  - John Robinson offered to answer any questions the Budget Committee may have, but believed that Peter Curro has laid out the SAU's interests addressed all questions very well.
  
- Mark Oswald offered the Budget Committee's appreciation and applauded the efforts of the Superintendent and the School Board.

J. A motion was made by Don Jorgensen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb Nowicki that the Budget Committee has reached a consensus to support the School District Budget barring any large changes other than what has already been discussion:

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald	X			
<b>Totals</b>	7	0	0	0

K. Liaison Reports.

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. None Scheduled

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. None Scheduled

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Deb Nowicki 2<sup>nd</sup> by Todd Joncas at 8:30 pm to adjourn the meeting,. The vote on the motion was as follows.

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald	X			
<b>Totals</b>	7	0	0	0

**RSA: 91-A:2 Meetings Open to Public. –**

**II. All public proceedings shall be open to the public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meetings of those bodies or agencies. Except for town meetings, school district meetings and elections, no vote while in open session may be taken by secret ballot. Any person shall be permitted to use recording devices, including, but not limited to, tape recorders, cameras and videotape equipment, at such meetings. Minutes of all such meetings, including names of members, persons appearing before the bodies or agencies, and a brief description of the subject**

**matter discussed and final decisions, shall be promptly recorded and open to public inspection within 144 hours of the public meeting, except as provided in RSA 91-A:6, and shall be treated as permanent records of any body or agency, or any subordinate body thereof, without exception.**

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