

Budget Committee
Fire Station training room
7:30pm November 12th, 2008

Approved: December 3rd, 2008

Present at this meeting: Budget Committee Members: Judith Brotman, Richard Jones, Earl Strout, Freda Swan, Charles Justice, Josh Kilham, Jeff Lehmann, Earl Strout, William Lewis, and Mark Schiffman. Selectmen: Simon Carr & Charles Ragan. Scribe: Dina Cutting. Department heads: Chief Field. Community members: Julia Elder, Cynthia Bognolo, & Andrea Colgan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brotman at 7:30pm.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of the October 29th meeting. Mrs. Swan seconded. Voted unanimously in favor.

Selectmen's budget presentation:

Mr. Carr presented memo from the Board of Selectmen highlighting the various issues in the proposed 2009 budget. The operating budget is a 2.45% increase including the new offices bond over the 2008 budget. The Selectmen have delivered a budget of less than the budget committee's recommended maximum increase not including the new offices bond of 4.5%. Mr. Carr reviewed the following lines: Executive-meetings, seminar & education, Elections & registration, general government, cemeteries, police. Employee wages & benefits, select board staffing re-allocation of wages & benefits due to the re-organization of the selectmen's office were reviewed. Treasurer's salary & Overseer of the poor salary were reviewed. Emergency management, highway, solid waste collection & disposal, health and finally parks & recreation lines were highlighted.

Followed was a question and answer session concerning the Selectmen's proposed budget for 2009. There was a lengthy discussion concerning COLA and the town employee benefits.

Public comments were taken:

- Mrs. Elder noted the 100% of the money collected for land taken out of current use goes into the conservation fund. This account has \$212,269.04 in it. Mrs. Elder would like the Selectmen and budget committee to consider having 50% of this current use penalty money go to the town to help with the purchase of special items identified in the town budget as a need for the town. This would need to be a vote at town meeting. Mrs. Elder was advised that this would need to be presented as a warrant article.
- Ms. Bognolo commented it was nice to have Wednesdays as an additional opportunity to go to the Transfer Station and she hoped the Selectmen did not do away with this.

Capital budget: The Capital budget was reviewed. Followed was a brief discussion concerning the Town Poor Fund, and if there was enough money going into this fund. The fire department request for a new truck and the type of the new truck was briefly discussed. Questions about the ISO rating were asked and answered.

At this time Mrs. Brotman cautioned members of the budget committee about e-mail and reiterated that the budget committee members should not be having e-mail discussions. The budget committee canceled the meeting on November 19th; the next meeting will be December 3rd, 2008 @ 7:30pm for budget discussions.

At 9:15 Mr. Kilham moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Cutting