

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
December 10, 2007**

A business meeting of the New Durham Budget Committee was called to order at 6:16 PM in the Town Hall located off Main Street.

Present:

Cecile Chase, Budget Committee Chairman
Dean Stimpson, Budget Committee member
Ann Brady, Budget Committee member
David Curry, Budget Committee member
Cathy Orlowicz, Budget Committee member
Lois Parker, Budget Committee member
Ron Gehl, Selectmen's Representative to the Committee

Also Present:

April Whittaker, Town Administrator
Vickie Blackden, Financial Assistant

Approval of Minutes: The Committee reviewed the minutes of the November 19, 2007. Motion David Curry, second Lois Parker to approve as written, vote 5-0, with Dean Stimpson and Cecile Chase recused because of absence from the meeting.

- **Acct 4290 Emergency Management:** The committee met with Jason Lamontagne who informed them that a laptop computer was being purchased through a grant and also that the Town was on the list to receive a digital radio and antenna. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Jason for procuring these grants. Jason also told the committee he is working with the State Emergency Management to upgrade a room at the police station to meet the standards for Emergency Management and that the Town could receive a 50/50 grant.

- **Acct 4414 Animal Control Officer:** The part-time wages were explained by April Whittaker who advised that Leon Smith is a full time highway department worker. Consequently, when he gets an animal control call it brings him into over 40 hours for the week and is over-time. Mileage covers runs to Coheco Valley. Leon uses his own vehicle at this time. The equipment he is requesting is supplies for the dogs including food/water dishes and a veri-kennel in which to place the dog until transport. Also there are the fees paid to Coheco Valley each year. The Town has not yet received a bill for this year from Coheco Valley so the number reflected is last years figure. **Motion to accept the figures as presented with the option to review after the Selectmen's approval by**

Cathy Orlowicz, second by Dean Stimpson. Discussion, David Curry asked were the Cocheco Valley dues going to be the same? The answer was yes. Motion was amended to \$5,263.00. Motion made, seconded and amended. Vote was unanimous.

- **Acct 4316 Street Lights:** The committee met with April Whittaker who explained the Town has 6 Lights with PSNH and 37 lights with NH Co-Op. The budget was figured with a 5% increase based on information from NH Co-Op. **Motion by Dean Stimpson, second by Ann Brady to accept as presented \$7,100. Vote was unanimous.**

- **Acct 4299 Other Public Safety:** The committee met with April Whittaker who explained that the ambulance fees are what Comstar charges the Town for billing services. Court diversion is the Chances program which the Chief of Police supports. Outside detail includes traffic control for the utility companies or any other event or situation which requires traffic control. The dispatch fees are from Strafford County Dispatch Services which remained the same as last year. The other dispatch service is Lakes Region and they have not submitted their fees for this year as yet. **Tabled until figures are received from Lakes Region.**

- **Acct 4324 Solid Waste:** The committee met with Joe Bloskey who explained there was a decrease from last year's budget because of a savings on hauling disposal. The question was asked if he foresaw an increase in volume. Joe answered that they have not seen an increase in volume at this time. Ron Gehl explained that the selectmen reviewed specifically the volume by year to date and felt justified in the reduction of the budget. The question was asked if there was a figure available for building maintenance. Joe stated that he is in the process of getting quotes for insulation and that they now had a furnace. Ron Gehl explained that this item had been moved to 4194 General Government Building Account, which has now been set up to handle all the department buildings. **Motion to approve \$200,558 upon selectmen's review of full-time salary figure by Dean Stimpson, second David Curry. Vote unanimous.**

April Whittaker and Ron Gehl had to excuse themselves from the meeting at 6:58 PM to attend the BOS meeting.

- **Acct 4290 Forestry:** The committee met with David Stuart. He explained that he is trying to budget for forestry separate from the Fire Department. He works jointly with the State and receives a 50/50 reimbursement. Forestry is regulated by the State. It requires different equipment needs from the Fire Department. The increase from \$1000 to \$3500 for the Trust Fund is being asked for because of the expense to the Town if there should be a major forest fire. Cathy Orlowicz stated that

she would have the Trust Fund figures at the next meeting. **Motion to approve \$12,140 pending selectmen's review by David Curry second by Dean Stimpson. Vote unanimous.**

- **Acct 4220 Fire Department:** The committee met with Interim Chief Rod Nelson and Fire Chief Assistant Russell Sample. They started by stating there was an unexpected repair of over \$15,000 to Engine 16. The money to cover this expense was pulled from other line items. Some of the increases to the budget are due because we now have 12 people who have gone through certification programs and the fire department is requesting the salary for a part time secretary, four hours a day, four days a week. The request for a secretary is so the fire department can get all its reports filed timely and all pertinent information into the data base. Also all new members to the department should receive physical examinations. The department is working on writing a policy to cover this issue. Next the need for a cell phone for the car was explained to the committee. The committee reduced the amount asked for from \$4020 to \$3200. The procedure for hazardous materials was explained so the committee could understand the request for monies to cover hazardous material supplies. This amount was adjusted from \$1000 to \$500 by the committee. The question was asked how the staff was paid and Rod told them they were paid quarterly. Russell went on to explain that all of the equipment has to be certified each year. The need for protective gear comes from the increase in members. The fuel request for the trucks was reduced from \$6000 to \$5500 by the committee. **Held pending Selectmen's review. Committee recommendations to be forwarded to the Selectmen.**

Any Other Business: Lois Parker reminded the Committee that she may not be able to attend the Dec 17th meeting.

Motion to Adjourn by Dean Stimpson, second by Lois Parker. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Laura Zuzgo*

***Next Meeting: 6 PM Monday, December 17th, 2007 in the
Downstairs Conference Room at the Town Hall.***