

B U D G E T C O M M I T T E E
P U B L I C M E E T I N G M I N U T E S
December 17, 2008

A business meeting of the New Durham Budget Committee was called to order at 6:39 PM in the Town Hall located off Main Street.

Present:

Cecile Chase, Budget Committee Chairperson
David Curry, Budget Committee Co-Chairman
Ann Brady, Budget Committee member
Tom Goss, Budget Committee member
Peter Rhoades, Selectmen's Representative to the Committee
Dean Stimpson, Budget Committee member

Excused Absences:

Lois Parker, Budget Committee member

Also Present:

April Whittaker, Town Administrator
Sheri Joy, Recreation Commission Chairperson
Kristyn Bernier, Recreation Commissioner
Jessica Bailey, Recreation Director
David Stuart, Forest Fire Warden
Peter Varney, Fire Department Chief

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of the minutes of Dec 10th, 2008 was postponed until the January 7th, 2009 meeting.

- **Acct 4520 Parks and Recreation:**
Jessica Bailey, Recreation Director presented the Parks and Recreation budget requests. She was supported by Commissioners Joy and Bernier. Jessica Bailey explained to the Committee members that the phone line has been increased because the phone line has been moved from the school to the Town Hall and made the line an incoming and outgoing line. She explained that a line was added at the beach and one was removed from the concession stand. The issue of the stipend for the cell phone was also discussed. Sheri Joy explained the history of the cell phone issue and why the Commission had voted to cut the stipend from \$40 to \$20. Jessica explained that she has chosen to not use her personal phone for Recreation business. The Commission will be providing her with a Town phone. The cell phone line has been reduced from \$480 to \$240 which brings the telephone line down to \$1,144.

Jessica explained that several items had been listed under Equipment last year and were being moved to Ball Field Maintenance this year. Cecile Chase asked if Prospect Mountain were being charged a fee for the use of the fields. Jessica explained that as far as she knew from past history and as explained to her, they paid with labor. They helped set up and break down the fields. The Commission is discussing charging a fee as the amount of labor is minimal for the amount of time Prospect Mountain uses the fields.

Game officiating is being reduced by 25% with support via the user fee revolving fund.

The Commission is in the process of getting the necessary permits for the retaining wall at the beach. April Whittaker explained that the money budgeted this year for the retaining wall cannot be encumbered unless there is a signed contract in place so the Commission is asking to have the cost placed in the 2009 budget.

Jessica explained that the cost for concreting the floors of the dugouts and a shed to store chemicals have been items that were identified as being capital items, which can be supported through the Capital Reserve Fund currently in place. With regards to the proposed shed acquisition it was explained that both the CIP committee and Safety committee felt it very important that chemicals be stored distinct and separate from other items of storage. Questions were raised about other items being stored and if they were still there. Ms. Bailey will review.

Sheri Joy updated the committee members of all the improvements that were made to the ball field this past year. David Curry stated that the Committee has requested a quarterly report for their review from all of the Departments and Committees so that they will be aware of what purchases have been made from the budget and what items are anticipated.

Motion by Dean Stimpson, second by Ann Brady to approve Acct 4520 Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$69,567. Vote was unanimous.

Acct 4290 Forest Fire:

David Stuart presented the budget for the Forest Fire portion of the Emergency Management Account. David explained to the Committee what the purpose of the forest fire suppression is. He explained that the Town is no longer going to be billing for Mutual Aid towns for assistance in forest fire suppression. The reason for this is a mutual aid agreement has been reached between the Town and surrounding towns.

Training expenses have increased to cover training of personnel on new equipment. A skid unit is being purchased for the 4-wheel mule and extensive training will be required.

The equipment line covers the expense for general hose replacement and hand tools. The question was asked if Forestry had its own tools separate from those of the Fire Department. It was explained that yes they have their own tools.

Motion Dean Stimpson, second Tom Goss to approve Acct 4290 in the amount of \$8,400 for Forest Fire. Vote was unanimous.

It was noted Budget Committee previously approved Emergency Management in the amount of \$3700, bringing the total approved for Acct 4290 to \$12,100.

Acct 4220 Fire Department:

April Whittaker read the minutes of the Board of Selectmen November 24 meeting to the Committee so that the Budget Committee were aware of the department's interview and questions thereof so as to not duplicate work.

David Curry asked about the lift kit for the mule. He asked if it was part of the same equipment the Forestry was requesting. Chief Varney explained it was for the same vehicle but was not part of the same purchase. They are asking for a lift kit for the mule to make it possible to go over rough terrain without scraping the bottom of the vehicle. The Chief explained that both departments use the mule and so they have split the cost of the improvements between the two departments.

April Whittaker asked to have it noted that some of the maintenance issues for the Fire Trucks are not being handled in a timely manner.

Chief Varney explained the "Master Stream" piece of apparatus, and why it is needed. The new truck came in with all the equipment needed for a rescue truck. It came in with a 1000 gals of water and the department has taken all the equipment off tanker one and moved it onto the new truck. The only thing missing is a deck gun to meet ISO certification. The advantage to being ISO certified is it lowers the cost of fire insurance for residents.

April Whittaker explained to the Committee that the ambulance fees go into a revolving fund to defray the cost of a new ambulance. The Fire Department would like to expand the revolving fund to include equipment and man hours defrayment. They have asked to have the rewording placed on a warrant article.

The Department will be encumbering \$31,000 for the ladder truck improvement.

Chief Varney is still tallying the cost of the ice storm to the department. He explained that all the Towns provide aid and the aid provided by New Durham was an EMT at the shelter for a 12 hour shift each day.

The increase to the training line is due to paying more for training. Other towns come to New Durham for training and pay for this service. The revenue from this service then goes into the general fund.

April Whittaker expressed how proud she is to work with the Fire Department and it is amazing all of the improvements that have been made to the Department in the last two years.

Motion Dean Stimpson, second David Curry to approve Acct 4220 in the amount of \$174,858. David Curry asked if the hose replacement history was reflective in the numbers. The answer was yes. **Vote was unanimous.**

The next meeting will be January 7th, 2009 at 6:30 PM. The Committee will be adding Coppolecrown Village District, Solid Waste, Equipment Mechanic, and Town Clerk to the agenda to review issues which required further reporting.

Motion by David Curry, second by Dean Stimpson to adjourn. Vote was unanimous
The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Laura Zuzgo*

***Next Meeting: 6:30 PM Wednesday, January 7th, 2009
At the Town Hall.***