

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

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A business meeting of the New Durham Budget Committee was called to order at 6:14 PM in the Town Hall located off Main Street.

**Present:**

David Curry, Budget Committee member  
Dean Stimpson, Budget Committee member  
Ann Brady, Budget Committee member  
Ron Gehl, Selectmen's Representative

**Also Present:**

Vickie Blackden, Financial Assistant  
April Whittaker, Town Administrator

**Excused Absences:**

Cecile Chase, Budget Committee Chairman  
Cathy Orlowicz, Budget Committee member  
Lois Parker, Budget Committee member

**Approval of Minutes:** The Committee reviewed the minutes of January 7, 2008. Minutes could not be voted on due to a lack of a quorum of eligible voters.

- Acct 4130 Executive Offices:** The committee asked Ron Gehl to explain how the selectmen reached the pay increase of 4.5%. Ron Gehl explained that they had given a 2% cost of living increase based on data obtained and 2.5% merit increase dependant on a favorable review. He went on to explain that they had originally intended to do a study on salaries averages, but were not able to do that this year. Ron Gehl advised that an impact of 1% raise equated to \$9,600 on the budget overall, so the impact appeared reasonable. The work force is the Town's most important resource and the selectmen wanted to be fair to them. The selectmen have a contract in hand to conduct the study for the Town this coming year. The printing costs in the budget were reduced from \$8000 to \$5500. **Motion By Ann Brady, second by Dean Stimpson to accept Acct 4130 in the amount of \$141,834.00. Vote was unanimous**
  
- Acct 4150 Financial Administration:** April Whittaker explained to the committee that this account needed to be revisited by the Selectmen because the cost for auditing was going to increase by about \$5000. The committee chose to add the \$5000 extra into the budget. **Motion by Dean**

**Stimpson, second Ann Brady to accept Acct 4150 in the amount of \$99,646.**

- **Acct 4191 Planning Board:** This Acct is still under review by the selectmen. **Rescheduled to Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>.**
  
- **Acct 4194 General Government Building:** April Whittaker explained that there had been cuts made to this budget by the selectmen. The solid waste building project has been reduced by \$3800, \$500 from Highway electricity, \$250 from the ball field electricity, and the retaining wall from the library ground maintenance. Dean Stimpson offered to abstain from this vote. Because of the lack of quorum, the remaining committee members advised that they were comfortable with Mr. Stimpson's participation in the vote. **Motion by Ann Brady, second Ron Gehl to accept Acct 4194 in the amount of \$61,779. Vote was unanimous.**
  
- **Acct 4220 Fire:** David Curry asked a question about the 100 point wage system the Fire department was looking into to use for compensation. Ron Gehl explained that once it was put in place they realized that it would be less expensive on the Town if they paid an hourly wage instead. This is still under review by the selectmen. **Motion by Dean Stimpson, second Ann Brady to accept Acct 4220 in the amount of \$154,032. Vote was unanimous.**
  
- **Acct 4240 Building Inspection:** April Whittaker explained that because of a health issue with the building inspector, the wages were less than budgeted for. She has made an estimated guess at what the requirement would be for this year. Ron Gehl explained that the selectmen thought the hours factored in might be high, but they expect an increase in code enforcement. April Whittaker also informed the committee that the off setting revenue from this department was \$25,091 from building permits, which means the department came out revenue neutral for the year. **Motion by Dean Stimpson, second by Ann Brady to accept Acct 4240 in the amount of \$22,070. Vote was unanimous.**
  
- **Acct 4290 Emergency Management:** When the committee first reviewed this account, The Emergency Management Director was in the process of getting a grant for a lap top computer. At this time he has received the grant. The committee removed the \$800 budgeted for supplies and food because of this grant acquisition. The budget was reduced to \$10,840. **Motion by Dean Stimpson, second by Ann Brady to accept Acct 4290 in the amount of \$10,840. Vote was unanimous.**

- Acct 4299 Other Public Safety:** The committee was waiting for the figures from Lakes Region at the time of review. The figure from Lakes Region came in at \$1500 more. April Whittaker stated that the witness fees had been removed from this budget because they are covered under Police Department overtime. **Motion by Dean Stimpson, second by Ann Brady to accept Acct 4299 in the amount of \$43,275. Vote was unanimous.**
- Acct 4199 Other General Government:** After a quick review of the numbers, the committee noted there had been no changes made to them. **Motion by Dean Stimpson, second by Ann Brady to accept Acct 4199 in the amount of \$8,300. Vote was unanimous.**
- Acct 4312 Highways and Streets:** This account needed to be revisited to review the wages lines. **Motion by Dean Stimpson, second by Ann Brady to accept Acct 4312 in the amount of \$521,162. Vote was unanimous.**
- Acct 4319 Equipment Mechanic:** This account needed to be revisited for the wages lines. **Motion by Dean Stimpson, second by Ann Brady to accept Acct 4319 in the amount of \$129,040. Vote was unanimous.**
- Acct 4324 Solid Waste Disposal:** This account needed to be revisited for the wages lines. **Motion by Ann Brady, second Dean Stimpson to accept Acct 4324 in the amount of \$266,224. David Curry made a statement commending Joe Bloskey for reducing his expenditures. Vote was unanimous.**
- Acct 4414 Pest Control/ACO:** This account needed to be revisited for the wages lines. **Motion by Dean Stimpson, second by Ann Brady to accept Acct 4414 in the amount of \$5,263. Vote was unanimous.**
- Acct 4441 Welfare:** This account needed to be revisited for the wages line. **Motion by Dean Stimpson, second by Ann Brady to accept Acct 4441 in the amount of \$26,000. Vote was unanimous.** Ron Gehl stated that April Whittaker should be commended for the work she has done to reduce this budget. He pointed out that no one is being denied an opportunity for assistance, but are being directed to other agencies for help whenever possible.

April Whittaker requested Ron Gehl to update the committee on where the selectmen are with the capital costs. Ron started with an explanation of the operating budget. He stated there is no fluff in the budget. Personnel costs are hitting the Town hard because of the cost of insurance, retirement funds, etc. He stated that because of the extra costs in this area the capital projects have had to be cut back. The selectmen are stilling working on

these issues to figure out the best course for the Town to take. Ron Gehl has asked the budget committee to review the capital items and give their recommendations of where they feel cuts could be made.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 at 6:00 PM.

A motion to Adjourn was made by Dean Stimpson, second by Ann Brady. Vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Zuzgo*

***Next Meeting: 6 PM Wednesday, January 23rd in the Upstairs  
Conference Room at the Town Hall.***