

**DRAFT- These minutes are strictly a draft copy and are awaiting amendment or approval at a subsequent duly noticed public meeting. Amendments to these minutes will be noted in the minutes of said meeting. They are being posted on the web site as a draft copy for public informational use.**

Budget Committee Minutes – February 4, 2009

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Draft

**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**  
**February 4, 2009**  
**DRAFT**

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

**Present:**

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  
Cecile Chase, Budget Committee Chairperson

**Excused Absences:**

Lois Parker, Budget Committee member

**Also Present:**

April Whittaker, Town Administrator  
Vickie Blackden, Financial Assistant  
Mark Fuller, Road Agent  
Cathy Orlowicz  
David Bickford, Selectman

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Budget Committee members reviewed the minutes of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

Page 1 – Peter Rhoades was not present at that meeting and his name was moved to Excused Absences.

**Motion Dean Stimpson, second Tom Goss to approve the minutes of Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 as amended. Vote was unanimous with Peter Rhoades and David Curry abstaining.**

[TA] April Whittaker reminded the committee that the public hearing for the budget will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Library at 6:30 PM. David Curry advised the other members of the committee that he would not be available on that night.

April Whittaker explained the Board of Selectmen's(BOS) reasoning for determining level funding. Level funding to them is last years' rate of \$6.11 plus \$.14 for the March's Pond Dam bond that was approved at last years' Town Meeting, with the first payment due this year, bringing the total to \$6.25. The Budget Committee agreed with that reasoning and set a goal to keep the tax rate at or below \$6.25.

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April Whittaker provided the committee members with handouts showing the BOS budget and the Budget Committee's budget with all the accounts that are not in agreement highlighted. The Committee reviewed those accounts where there were differences.

## **OPERATING BUDGET:**

### **Acct 4194 General Government Buildings:**

The Selectmen did not agree with the Budget Committee in cutting \$10,000 from the Public Works building line, but did cut \$5125. Also they did not agree with cutting the Solid Waste Building line by \$3500, but did cut \$2100 from it. After a brief discussion of the reasons for the smaller cuts by the Selectmen than the ones proposed by the Budget Committee, **Motion Ann Brady, second Dean Stimpson to accept Acct 4194 General Government Buildings in the amount of \$69,990. Vote was unanimous.**

### **Acct 4210 Police**

Peter Rhoades explained to the Committee that overtime for the Police department is not limited to just extra hours worked. It includes court time, on-call, and part-time. Peter Rhoades told the Committee that the Chief had told the BOS he would rather give up the addition and new carpet for the station than to try and cut the overtime line. **Motion Tom Goss, Ann Brady to accept Acct 4210 Police at \$329,403. Vote was unanimous.**

### **Acct 4324 Solid Waste Disposal:**

The Budget Committee had requested that \$2000 be cut from the overtime line. The BOS did not agree with this recommendation. Mark Fuller explained that overtime covered the time required for snow plowing and loading trailers with recyclable materials. **Motion Dean Stimpson, second Ann Brady to accept Acct 4324 Solid Waste Disposal in the amount of \$274,016. Vote was unanimous.**

### **Acct 4520 Parks & Recreation:**

The Selectmen reduced the line for fertilizer \$1000. After a brief discussion, the committee agreed with the Selectmen. **Motion Tom Goss, second Dean Stimpson to accept Acct 4520 Parks & Recreation in the amount of \$68,567. Vote was unanimous.**

### **Acct 4550 Library:**

The BOS cut the Library operating funds by \$5000. After a brief discussion the Committee members were in agreement. **Motion Dean Stimpson, second Ann Brady to accept Acct 4550 Library in the amount of \$95,690. Vote was unanimous.**

### **Acct 4723 Interest on TAN:**

The BOS cut this line to \$0. After a brief discussion about the necessity of this account, the Committee agreed with the Selectmen to cut it out of this year's budget.

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**Motion Tom Goss, second Ann Brady to eliminate Acct 4723 Interest on Tan in the amount of \$5000 from this year's budget. Vote was unanimous.**

#### **CAPITAL BUDGET:**

##### **Acct 4901 Road Reconstruction/Paving:**

The Selectmen cut this account by \$50,000. RA Fuller explained that the Town will be receiving three hazard mitigation grants. The three projects that will be covered by these is Davis Crossing, upgrading of Old Rte 11, and Copplecrown Road/Kings Highway. Mr. Fuller explained that \$50,000 of the \$150,000 proposed by the Selectmen might have to go toward the Town's responsibility of 25% for these projects. Mark Fuller stated he could get by with the \$50,000 cut for this year. He is planning to sit down with the Selectmen and discuss the possibility of a bond to cover road repair in the following year. TA Whittaker thanked Mark Fuller for all his hard work to get the grant money for the Town. She stated he had done an outstanding job handling all the paperwork and meetings.

**Motion Dean Stimpson, second Ann Brady to accept Acct 4901 in the amount of \$150,000. Vote 4-1 with David Curry voting against.**

##### **Acct 4909 Improvements Other Than Buildings:**

The Board of Selectmen cut the fuel pump line from the budget in the amount of \$12,000. The Committee agreed with this cut. **Motion Tom Goss, second Dean Stimpson to accept Acct 4909 Improvements Other Than Buildings in the amount of \$0. Vote was unanimous with Peter Rhoades abstaining.**

##### **Acct 4915 Capital Reserve Funds:**

The Committee reviewed the proposed cuts of the Board of Selectmen to the Capital Reserves. **Motion Ann Brady, second Dean Stimpson to accept Acct 4915 Capital Reserves Funds in the amount of \$239,700. Vote was unanimous.**

##### **Acct 4916 Expendable Trust Funds:**

The Board of Selectmen reduced this budget to a total of \$54,000 by cutting line item Town Building Improvements by \$60,500. The Committee reviewed this account and agreed with the BOS. **Motion Tom Goss, second Dean Stimpson to accept Acct 4916 Expendable Trust Funds in the amount of \$54,000. Vote was unanimous.**

The Budget Committee has reconciled its budget with the BOS.

The BOS and the Budget Committee will go into the Public Hearing with appropriations at \$3, 636,499 with offsetting revenue of \$1,900,601. The estimated tax rate is \$6.23.

Chairperson Cecile Chase joined the meeting at 7:45 PM.

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The Committee received a draft of the presentation document. TA Whittaker went through the different components of the draft and stated she would make the necessary changes to reflect the changes made at this meeting by the Budget Committee.

Dean Stimpson stated that TA Whittaker, BOS, and Budget Committee has done a good job this year in trying to meet the needs of the Town and keep the tax rate increase to a minimum.

**Motion Dean Stimpson, second Ann Brady to adjourn. Vote was unanimous.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Zuzgo*

***Next Meeting: 6:30 PM Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
At the New Durham Library***