

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
January 6, 2010**

A business meeting of the New Durham Budget Committee was called to order at 6:40 p.m. in the Town Hall located off Main Street.

Present:

David Curry, Budget Committee Chairperson
Tom Goss, Budget Committee Member
Ron Gehl, Selectmen's Representative to the Committee
Dean Stimpson, Budget Committee Member
Cecile Chase, Budget Committee Member

Also Present:

Vickie Blackden, Financial Assistant
Peter Varney, Fire Chief
Dave Stuart, Fire Warden
Jon Roy, Fire Department Lieutenant
David Bickford, Selectman
Kristyn Bernier, Parks & Rec Chair
Chris LaPierre, CCVD Commissioner Chair
Mary McHale

Excused:

Ann Brady, Budget Committee Member

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Dean Stimpson, seconded by Tom Goss to accept the minutes of December 16th, 2009 as written. Vote 5-0

Dates were set for the public hearing as follows: February 3rd with a backup date of February 9th. A regular budget meeting was scheduled for next Wednesday ~ January 13, 2009 & one for the following Wednesday ~ January 20 ~ to tie up any loose ends.

Selectman Ron Gehl was given the floor as he had important news to impart. He wished the Budget Committee to know that he would be resigning from his position as Selectmen effective 01/19/2010. It had been his pleasure to serve with the Budget Committee and greatly appreciated their hard work, steady heads and financial oversight through the years. His decision had not been an easy one, but one he felt he had to make with regards to his family.

Selectman Gehl's second announcement was that the other two Selectmen had laid off Town Administrator, April Whittaker. Selectmen Gehl felt this was not a well thought out move and was unsure of all the implications.

BC Chair Curry wished to express his regret. He felt that Ron Gehl's skill level, sage advice and huge amount of effort would be a great loss to the Town.

This was reiterated by other budget committee members.

Account 4220 Fire Department:

- ❑ **Fire Prevention:** Flat
- ❑ **Secretarial Service:** This position will be split between two people with a slight decrease in hourly rate for one employee as they had previously been paid their certification rate.
- ❑ **Telephone:** The amount requested is \$40.00 lower than previous year.
- ❑ **Hazardous Material, Dues/Fees, Office Supplies & Software Maintenance:** Level Funded
- ❑ **Postage:** Slashed 50%.
- ❑ **Radio Equipment & Maintenance:** Line is up \$495.00. This covers pagers and their maintenance. The Fire Department is currently working with Gilmanton for cost savings. Gilford bought the base & New Durham the program, and they swap off.
- ❑ **Vehicle Fuel:** 1000 gallons of gas & diesel calculated at estimated price.
- ❑ **Compensation:** Decrease of \$6794.
- ❑ **Inspections:** Up \$232.00. The fire Chief had not been charging for his time in the past.
- ❑ **New Line ~ Custodial Supplies:** \$100.00 for the essentials.
- ❑ **Training Expense:** Amount requested was cut \$1700.00 form '09 by BOS. Chief Varney is worried that this line is low, but will under spend other lines if necessary, as training is more important that certain equipment purchases.
- ❑ **Uniforms:** Chief Varney wants everyone professionally turned out when on duty. This has generated a positive response from the people of the Town.
- ❑ **Equipment Maintenance:** The amount requested is a decrease of \$375 from '09. The testing and maintenance of ladder trucks & pump. NFPA required.
- ❑ **Medical Supplies:** Level funded.
- ❑ **Fire Equipment:** After review, the Budget Committee felt this line could be cut by \$500.00.
- ❑ **Permanent Protective Clothing:** This line was reduced by \$1,500. Four new level 1 certified firefighters will need new gear. Interior gear is only bought once a firefighter is certified & it is very important to have the best gear for fire fighter safety. This includes boots, gloves, pants, helmet, hood & eye protection.

Selectman Gehl voiced his appreciation of the noteworthy level of service provided by the fire department even with budgetary reductions.

Motion by Tom Goss to approve the Fire Department Budget at \$160,797, seconded by Cecile Chase. Vote 5-0.

Acct 4290-40 Forestry:

- ❑ **Forest Fire Suppression:** Level Funded. The 2009 amount was mostly unused due to a very wet season.

- ❑ **Dues/Fees & Office Supplies:** Reduced by 25.00 each.
- ❑ **Training Expenses:** The amount requested is down \$500. Training is required on two new skid units.
- ❑ **Equipment Maintenance:** There will be a reduction of \$500.
- ❑ **Vehicle Fuel:** Level-funded.
- ❑ **Forestry Equipment:** Level funded. New hand tools are needed. This will also include some retrofitting of a new skid unit to the truck.
- ❑ **Protective Clothing:** Warden Stuart explained that a grant will be received in 2010 for \$800.00. 8 new sets of gear will be purchased. Forestry gear is considerably less expensive than interior firefighting gear.

Motion by Cecile Chase to approve the Forestry Budget at \$8,700, seconded by Dean Stimpson. Vote 5-0.

Acct 4520 Parks and Recreation:

- ❑ **Director:** Reduction of the Recreation Director to part time position has resulted in significant savings in this department as well as the benefit area of the budget.
- ❑ **Part Time Labor:** The amount requested covers beach coverage and minute taking.
- ❑ **Contracted Services:** Trash removal & porta-potties.
- ❑ **Telephone:** Up slightly.
- ❑ **Ball Field Maintenance:** Covering an overhaul of the basketball court & softball field repairs in addition to basic field needs & chemicals.
- ❑ **Dues & Fees:** Increase as calculated for various sports.
- ❑ **Education:** Reduction of \$200.00, will cover education needs for the Recreation Director.
- ❑ **Office Supplies:** Line cut 10%.
- ❑ **Postage:** A reduction, as website and media will be used in place of a mailing.
- ❑ **Gas:** Calculated with per gallon rate.
- ❑ **First Aid:** Slight increase with the need to replace AED pads & purchase pediatric pads.
- ❑ **Game Officiating:** The Budget Committee felt a reduction of \$500.00 could be made to this line.
- ❑ **Mileage:** This account is no longer calculated as a monthly stipend, and is now on a per mile basis.
- ❑ **Sports Equipment:** Level funded to replace used equipment & lining paint.
- ❑ **Town Beach:** greatly reduced as the beach project was completed in 2009 to everyone's great satisfaction.

Commissioner Bernier also wished to relate that no funds would be requested this year in the Smith Ball Field CRF. Much work had been accomplished with volunteer effort & reduced costs & she was hoping for more of the same in 2010.

The Budget Committee reiterated their request that the eventual goal of the revolving fund was geared toward carrying all costs of specific sports & the general fund geared

more towards the maintenance of Town infrastructure. Commissioner Bernier was in agreement. The Recreation Commission was thanked by Cecile Chase for their cost cutting efforts.

Motion by Cecile Chase to approve the Parks & Recreation Budget at \$55,725, seconded by Dean Stimpson. Vote 5-0.

Copple Crown Village District

Commissioner Chris LaPierre presented the MS-37 for Copple Crown Village District. Appropriations were reduced by \$15,500 for 2010. A new line item was added for a tax anticipation note @ \$2,000.00. CCVD is having cash flow issues due to property owners in arrears on their water bills. Funds of \$1000.00 are being appropriated to a CRF for uranium treatment.

Motion by Cecile Chase to approve the CCVD Budget at \$106,825 with offsetting revenue of \$14,250 leaving \$92,575 to be raised by general taxation, seconded by Dean Stimpson. Vote 5-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Blackden*

***Next Meeting: 6:30 PM Wednesday, January 13, 2010
at the Town Hall.***

A video recording of this meeting is on file with the Office of the Town Clerk, is available for public viewing during normal business hours, and will be retained in accordance with the New Hampshire Municipal Records Board rules established under RSA 33-4:4, or for a minimum of 24 months.