

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

March 18, 2010

Present: Chairman Elaine Kelly  
Rick Nieber  
Janice Hight  
Dan McInnis  
Bob D'Amico  
Tony Poteete

Also Present: Town Administrator John W. Coderre  
Library Director Jean Langley  
Library Trustee Barbara Virgil  
DPW Director Kara Buzanoski

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The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Approval of Minutes

R. Nieber moved approval of the March 4, 2010 meeting minutes; J. Hight seconded; approved unanimously.

Review of Library Budget

Jean Langley discussed the recent changes in the Library staffing and the shift of funding in FY11 from the contractual to salary line.

Overall, the budget is down 9.4% from FY10. Most of the reduction was made in the book budget. However, the Friends of the Library have donated \$50,000 to offset the book budget reduction in FY11.

Operational costs of the Library have been tracked closely and fuel expenses have been reduced accordingly. The budget does not reflect any wage increases pending contract settlement.

J. Langley indicated that we will need to seek a waiver in FY11 for state aid. The Town was successful in obtaining a waiver in FY10.

The Committee discussed the need for a Facilities Manager and strongly urged the pursuit of hiring a joint Town/School position.

Review of Department of Public Works Budget

Kara Buzanoski reviewed the Highway, Parks and Cemetery budgets. No significant changes in FY11. Salary increases are not reflected in the detailed budgets at this time, pending settlement of collective bargaining agreements.

The Committee discussed the use and challenges associated with relying on seasonal and temporary help.

Water Enterprise Fund

K. Buzanoski discussed the Lyman Street which is now online. She indicated that the costs for treatment chemicals are higher than originally estimated, but every gallon pumped is a gallon not bought from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.

Sewer Enterprise Fund

The budget is basically flat in FY11.

The Committee discussed the disposition of the Haitsma property and the status of the EPA permit for the additional flow into the Assabet River.

The Committee discussed the potential rate impacts of the coming expansion of the Marlborough Westerly Plant. K. Buzanoski indicated that an in-depth rate study is currently underway.

Other Business

J. Coderre stated the final assessments voted by the ARHS Committee and the Assabet School Committee are significantly lower than originally projected, resulting in \$442,417 in one-time budgetary capacity being freed up.

E. Kelly questioned whether or not the Committee should vote on the Town Administrator's recommendations for the \$442,217 in additional capacity to the overall FY2011 budget. The Town Administrator had recommended \$301,447 go to subsidize the PAYT Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Program; \$100,000 to fund the filing of the declaratory judgment regarding the ARHS MSBA grant reimbursement; and \$27,600 to fund Town Clerk election equipment.

J. Hight moved that the Committee support the above recommendations by the Town Administrator; B. D'Amico seconded the motion; approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> as a joint FY2011 Budget Hearing with the Selectmen. Following that meeting, the next meeting is on April 1<sup>st</sup> when the Committee meets with the Finance Office and the Senior Center.

Adjournment

9:38 p.m. Motion made to adjourn; seconded; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. Coderre