



*Town of Plaistow ♦ Budget Committee*  
*145 Main Street ♦ Plaistow ♦ NH ♦ 03865*

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** 01/09/2008

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:01 pm

**PRESENT:** Brian Levasseur, Michele Conte, Robert Gray, Richard Latham, Jan Penta, Chairwoman, Kristin Lewis Savage, Donna M. Luciano, John A. Sherman, Selectmen's Representative, Normand Bouchard, Dan Hooper

**EXCUSED:** B. FitzGerald, R. Hayes

- Motion by B. Levasseur to approve the minutes, as amended, of December 11, 2007;  
Second by K. Lewis Savage

**Vote:** 9-0-1

**Abstains:** R. Latham

**MINUTES:**

- Motion by K. Lewis Savage to approve the minutes, as amended, of 1/3/08, Second by R. Latham

**Abstains:** R. Gray, D. Hooper, D. Luciano

**Vote:** 7-0-3

J. Penta states there are two new Warrant Articles to be discussed which are by petition. States the first one is the Town Clerk Dental Insurance (Article P-08-15) and the Patrol Officer Position (Article P-08-16).

R. Latham asks if all town employees receive the same Dental Insurance

J. Hoch states yes all do.

N. Bouchard asks if it is 100% of the cost or a portion of it.

J. Hoch states he believes it is a portion.

12:31:08 PM

Budget Committee Meeting  
January 9, 2008



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K. Lewis Savage asks what other elected positions do not receive Dental Insurance as a result of this article.

J. Hoch states the Tax Collector would be the only one.

R. Latham states he believes all of the elected officials who receive compensation for work done deserve to have equal treatment.

K. Lewis Savage states she agrees but this is a petition article. States she would have a hard time penalizing one because any of them have the right to do this.

R. Gray states it is an elected position and there is nothing in the law that states she cannot make herself a non full time position whenever she wants to.

K. Lewis Savage states it might not even be the current person holding this position it could be anyone who runs for this position and if they decide to go part time, you will still have to provide the benefits.

K. Lewis Savage states because they are seeing it for the first time, she is content with voting not to recommend it tonight knowing that they have a chance to re vote it later on. States if the wording is changed she would be more comfortable with it and possibly more inclined to vote for it.

J. Hoch states to be fair, petition articles were due January 7, 2007.

J. Sherman states he would not agree with R. Latham that all elected officials should be treated the same because all elected officials would include the Board of Selectmen and the Budget committee as well as others.

R. Latham states he believes whoever receives compensation should be entitled.

➤ Motion by R. Gray to not recommend this warrant article; Second by D. Luciano

**Vote:** 9-0-1 (Motion carries)

**Abstains:** John Sherman

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **MS-7 Budget**

*J. Penta reviews each of the following Budgets:*

#### **1.) Executive Budget**

**Total: \$239,495**

**Increase of: \$8,523**

#### **2.) Election, Reg., & Vital Statistics**

**Total: \$126,125**

**Increase of: \$9,032**

#### **3.) Financial Administration**

**Total: \$126,821**

**Increase of: \$9,728**

#### **4.) Revaluation of Property**

**Total: \$130,745**

**Increase of: \$23,806**

#### **5.) Legal Expense**

**Total: \$24,500**

**Decrease of: \$ 8,000**

#### **6.) Personnel Administration**

**Total: \$1,176,057**

**Increase of: \$ 114,364**

**7.) Planning and Zoning**

**Total: \$88,266**

**Increase of: \$6,355**

**8.) General Government Buildings**

**Total: \$186,881**

**Increase of: \$6,679**

**9.) Cemeteries**

**Total: \$13,465**

**Increase of: \$570**

**10.) Insurance**

**Total: \$56,875**

**Decrease of: \$ 559**

**11.) Advertising & Regional Association**

**Total: \$24,670**

**Decrease of: \$6,222**

**12.) Other – General Government**

**Total: \$44,543**

**Increase of: \$995**

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**1.) Police**

**Total: \$1,629,328**

**Increase of: \$91,773**

**2.) Ambulance**

**Total: \$700**

**Increase of: \$500**

**3.) Fire**

**Total: \$472,777**

**Increase of: \$57,718**

**4.) Building Inspection**

**Total: \$108,579**

**Increase of: \$4,850**

**5.) Emergency Management**

**Total: \$ 5,979**

**Increase of: \$46**

**HIGHWAYS AND STREETS**

**1.) Administration**

**Total: \$244,368**

**Increase of: \$11,669**

**2.) Highway and Streets**

**Total: \$488,700**

**Increase of: \$268,820**

### **3.) Street Lighting**

**Total: \$78,000**

**Increase of: \$4,800**

## **SANITATION**

### **1.) Solid Waste Disposal**

**Total: \$655,750**

**Increase of: \$450**

### **2.) Solid Waste Clean-up**

**Total: \$46,000**

**Increase of: \$4,110**

## **WATER DISTRIBUTION & TREATMENT**

### **1.) Water Services**

**Total: \$49,274**

**Decrease of: \$209,118**

## **HEALTH AND WELFARE**

### **1.) Administration**

**Total: \$78,487**

**Increase of: \$1,368**

### **2.) Pest Control**

**Total: \$15,620**

**Increase of: \$2,439**

**3.) Health Agencies & Hospital & Other**

**Total: \$73,341**

**Decrease of: \$147**

**4.) Administration & Direct Assistance**

**Total: \$ 43,350**

**Decrease of: \$14,834**

**CULTURE & RECREATION**

**1.) Parks & Recreation**

**Total: \$247,646**

**Increase of: \$51,466**

**2.) Library**

**Total: \$438,365**

**Increase of: \$13,279**

**3.) Other - Cultural & Recreation**

**Total: \$38,118**

**Increase of: \$2,039**

**4.) Patriotic**

**Total: \$1,300**

**Level Funded**



## **CONSERVATION**

### **1.) Administration & Purchase of Natural Resources**

**Total: \$4,800**

**Decrease of: \$500**

## **DEBT SERVICE**

### **1.) Principal- Long Term Bonds & Notes**

**Total: \$110,000**

**Decrease of: \$80,000**

### **2.) Interest- Long Term Bonds & Notes**

**Total: \$17,001**

**Decrease of: \$8,499**

### **3.) Interest on TANS**

**Total: \$1.00**

## **Level Funded**

**J. Penta states the Operating Budget Total is \$7,085,927 with an increase overall of \$367,578.**

*J. Sherman states that people looking at bottom line states it may look like a huge increase but it is not. States that once you look at the Warrant Articles, that total requested expenditure is up approximately 1%.*

## **WARRANT ARTICLES**

**J. Penta opens by reading the first Warrant Article: Operating Budget Article P-08-02**

- Motion by K. Lewis Savage to waive the reading of the Warrant Articles in their entirety; Second by R. Latham**

**Vote: U/A (Motion carries)**

**A.) OPERATING BUDGET – ARTICLE P-08-02**

*J. Penta states this Article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

**B.) HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND – ARTICLE P-08-03**

*J. Penta states this Article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

**C.) HIGHWAY GARAGE OFFICE TRAILER – ARTICLE P-08-04**

*J. Penta states this Article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

**D.) FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE - ARTICLE P-08-05**

*J. Penta states this Article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

**E.) WATER CAPITAL RESERVE – ARTICLE P-08-06**

*J. Penta states this Article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

**F.) CONSERVATION FUND – ARTICLE P-08-07**

*J. Penta states this article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

**G.) TOWN CLERK SALARY- ARTICLE P-08-08**

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee*

**H.) TAX COLLECTOR SALARY - ARTICLE P-08-09**

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee*

**I.) WATER TOWN STUDY – ARTICLE P-08-10**

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee*

**J.) MEALS ON WHEELS – ARTICLE P-08-11**

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee*

**K.) PATROL OFFICER POSITION – ARTICLE P-08-12**

*J. Penta states this Article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

**L.) CONSERVATION FUND – ARTICLE P-08-13**

*Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee*

**M.) TOWN CLERK DENTAL INSURANCE – ARTICLE P-08-15 (By Petition)**

*J. Penta states the Board of Selectmen have not discussed this item and taken any action.*

*J. Penta states the Budget Committee voted earlier in the evening to not recommend it.*

**N.) PATROL OFFICER POSITION – ARTICLE P-08-16 (By Petition)**

*J. Penta states the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee has not taken action on this Article*

*George Melvin states he is one of the Petitioners on Article P-08-16, which is an article that is exactly the same as Article P-08-12. Mr. Melvin states it is his understanding that the Police Department is only looking for two Police Officers and he believes there should be four. States he would like to see this go on as a Warrant Article and allow the Voters to decide.*

*D. Hooper asks what study he is referring to as what was presented to the Budget Committee was a power point presentation not a study*

*G. Melvin states he thought it was a study. States he believes there needs to be a police presence in order to keep the residents of the Town protected. States he would like to give the voters a chance to make this decision for themselves and decide whether it makes sense or not.*

*R. Gray asks J. Sherman what happened at the Board of Selectmen meeting where the decision was made to cut two officers down to one.*

*J. Sherman states it was due to cost. States if you had two officers, it increased the Operating Budget by \$125,000. States the Board of Selectmen felt it was too much and were not comfortable with it.*

*R. Gray asks if it was a unanimous decision by the Board of Selectmen*

*J. Sherman states he believes it was.*

Barbara Ryan states she strongly recommends that they allow the people to decide on this Article. Asks J.Hoch if the Budget Committee needs to recommend this to go forward.

J. Hoch states they have to recommend.

B. Ryan states the Police Department is short handed. States they are down four officers since 2001 and the position needs backup. States the Position Acquisition Study was done in 2001 and the time crunch is there.

B. Levasseur asks about the study done in 2001 and if it was done by the Plaistow Police Department. Asks if there has there ever been an external study done and if so, when and how long ago. States he has a problem with a department doing its own study for its own needs. States he would like to see an external study done

Chief Savage states MRI did the study on this Department. States there was a component done about the staffing in the police department. States at the time, his thought was not to spend \$10,000 - \$15,000 on an outside study when his own could be done.

G. Melvin states he was a Selectman when MRI did a study on the Police Department. States that on the staffing issue, they did address the issue they were under staffed.

K. Lewis Savage asks if there are always two patrol officers on duty but not necessarily on the streets.

Chief Steven Savage states there are two patrol officers on days, as well as one or two detectives, the Deputy, and himself. States strictly from a patrol point of view, there are two on the day shift, but this does not always mean that there are two on the streets due to court, training and other work related commitments.

R. Gray asks how much of a tax impact this Warrant Article would have.

J. Hoch states it would be 6.3 cents.

B. Levasseur asks Chief Savage if two officers were approved this year would he be coming next year to ask for two more

Chief savages states probably not. States he would come before the Committee asking for one the following year, and one the year after that, so it would be 2-1-1. States the Police Department needs to reach that staffing level. States how that is done is open to the Taxpayers voting.

J. Sherman states that speaking for himself, one per year seemed appropriate.

- *Motion by D. Hooper to not recommend this Petition Warrant Article; Second by N. Bouchard*

**Vote:** 2-6-2 (Motion Defeated)

**Abstains:** K. Lewis Savage, J. Sherman

- *Motion by R. Gray to recommend Article P-08-16; Second B. Levasseur*

**Vote:** 6- 2-2 (Motion carries)

**Abstains:** K. Lewis Savage, J. Sherman

*J. Sherman states if any Department Heads have any additional expenditures to their Budgets, it would need to be presented at this Public Hearing.*

**J. Penta declares Public Hearing closed at: 8:35 pm**

*J. Penta states the Deliberative session will be February 2, 2008 at 10:00 am at the Town Hall.*

*J. Penta states she would like to thank everyone on the Budget Committee as a first year Chairwoman and appreciates the Committee's help and support.*

**ADJOURNEMENT:**

*J. Penta adjourns meeting at 8:42 pm*

*Respectfully submitted by,*

*Selwa Moured  
Recording Secretary*

12:31:08 PM

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