



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

PUBLIC BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES:

DATE: Thursday, January 15, 2009

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:02 pm

PRESENT: Jan Penta – Chairman, Ron Hayes - Vice Chairman,
Normand Bouchard, Bernadine Fitzgerald,
Dan Hooper, Joyce Ingerson, Kristin Lewis Savage,
John Sherman, Catherine Willis Martha Sumner

ABSENT: Michele Conte - Excused

AGENDA:

BUDGET

J. Penta discusses Executive budget and the changes; Election Registration and Vitals noting it includes both Elections and Town Clerk and discusses decrease and changes; Financial Administration noting increase and reasons for it; Legal noting unchanged from 2008 and Personnel Administration noting increase and the reasons for it. She inquires about MS-7 for viewing of people in the audience.

S. Fitzgerald loads computer to project information onto screen for attendees to see.

J. Penta discusses the following line items noting increases and decreases to each and the reasons behind each: Planning and Zoning noting these are two separate accounts; General Governmental Buildings; Cemeteries noting no change from last year and that it is level funded; Town Insurance; Advertising Regional Association; Other General Government noting this includes Cable and Conflict of Interest Budget; Police Department Budget; Ambulance; Fire Department Budget; Building Inspection; Emergency Management; Highway Administration; Street Lighting; Solid Waste Disposal; Solid Waste Clean Up noting it is level funded; Water Distribution; Health; Animal Control; Human Services; Welfare Administration; Welfare Direct Assistance; Recreation; Library; Patriotic Purposes; Cultural; Conservation and Debt Services noting there are two portions; she discusses the interest on the TAN and notes the Total Operating Budget this year is \$7,352,500. She notes the increase to payroll is because of the 53rd week in payroll and is not due to raises. She discusses gasoline specifically noting that they had to pick a number that all departments would use and heating/diesel there were ranges and they chose a settlement of a number hoping they are in the ball park. She discusses the

recommended increases over last year of 1.2%, noting expected decrease in non property tax revenue which a large portion will be from expected revenue income from the department and noted that they may not get as much revenue as they have in the past.

Resident, Jason Hoch approaches podium and inquires about the Highway Department regarding how much the pavement management is being decreased.

J. Penta notes \$15,000.

J. Hoch notes he is disappointed and suggests if there is a way to find that \$15,000 elsewhere then to do so. He discusses Street Lighting and Solid Waste regarding tightening up projections for 2009 to find \$15,000 for roads.

J. Penta asks Dan Garlington to speak on decrease noting Town Manager had gotten together with him and discussed this.

D. Garlington approaches podium and notes the recommendation was part of the finding of the reducing of the overall Budget and Warrant Articles noting his recommendation was a larger decrease and the Town Manager decided to reduce it less. He discusses impact, hot top and notes the process to find money within the Operating Budget to reduce by \$350,000.

S. Fitzgerald discusses this is not the area he wanted to cut and was very reluctant in doing such however he will look month to month to help augment this.

K. Lewis Savage inquires as to where we are on the plan, ahead, behind or right where we are suppose to be.

D. Garlington discusses that it all depends on the actual cost to do the work. He discusses costs and numbers changing noting back log is not as far behind as it was and discusses condition of the roads and surveys.

J. Sherman discusses Solid Waste Disposal and the Actual. He notes he has requested an analysis be done and has emailed Sean regarding such. He discusses the possible recommendation of reducing at Deliberative Session.

K. Lewis Savage inquires about Solid Waste Site Maintenance.

D. Garlington discusses mowing, conditions, rate changes, money being set aside and the State wanting certified projection.

S. Fitzgerald notes there are EPA and State Regulations of the land fill. He discusses the contract of the land fill noting he does not recommend adjusting downward until he talks with consultants.

K. Lewis Savage inquires about engineering and groundskeeping both being listed.

S. Fitzgerald doesn't think it is mowing he discusses maintenance of the cap which is much more involved and regulated scope of work that needs to be noting it is more complicated than mowing.

D. Hooper notes if we have not spend any money in that line item in the last couple of years then why do we keep that line open.

S. Fitzgerald notes he will be looking into that line item.

J. Penta discusses how hard the Committee worked trying to put the Budget together noting it started with an Interim Town Manager then left without one and then receiving Sean who was put right in the middle of Budget season. She discusses ice storm and all the difficulties for the Budget season and thanks Sean for his part in gathering all the information to put this together and how much she really appreciated it.

WARRANT ARTICLES

Motion by K. Lewis Savage to waive the reading of the Warrant Articles in their entirety.

2nd by D. Hooper.

Vote 9-1-0.

Opposed J. Sherman.

J. Penta reads the following information on Warrant Articles:

Warrant Article P-09-01 Operating Budget; total for Operating Budget \$7,352,500; total for Default Budget \$7,317,007. Recommended by BUDCOM. BOS will be voting on the Operating Budget after this meeting.

Warrant Article P-09-02 – Replace Highway Department Dump Truck; Recommended by BOS and BUDCOM and is in the CIP.

Warrant Article P-09-03- Fire Suppression Water Capital Reserve Fund; Recommended by BOS and BUDCOM and is in the CIP.

Warrant Article P-09-05 - Fire Department Capital Reserve; Recommend by BOS and BUDCOM and is in the CIP.

Warrant Article P-09-06 - Fire Truck Replacement; Recommend by BOS and BUDCOM.

Warrant Article P-09-09 - Westville Road Widening Project; Recommended by BOS and BUDCOM.

Warrant Article P-09-10 - Conservation Fund; Recommended by BOS and BUDCOM and is in the CIP.

Warrant Article P-01-11 - Danville Road Sidewalk Match; Recommended by the BOS and BUDCOM.

K. Lewis Savage inquires about contact with Cumberland Farms.

S. Fitzgerald notes he has not heard anything.

K. Lewis Savage inquires if he will let them know if he does.

S. Fitzgerald notes yes he will.

J. Penta discusses Petition Article P-09-XX Playground at Old County Road. Recommended by BUDCOM 6-4-0. She notes 6 in favor, 4 against and no abstain.

D. Hooper inquires about expenditures.

K. Lewis Savage notes as a member of the Rec Commission she is able to tell them that the Rec Director has been working on site plans and projections.

D. Hooper discusses the Conservation Fund and suggests for Budget Committee to reconsider their vote on this Warrant Article.

J. Sherman notes the Rec Director would have been here however she has been very sick. He thanks all Department Heads for being here and notes he is very appreciative of them to be here to answer questions that come up.

S. Fitzgerald notes they have been outstanding and appreciates their hard work.

Resident, Jason Hoch questions Highway Department Reserve Deposit and notes that he did not see it listed and was wondering what happen to it.

J. Penta notes that is an area they felt could be cut.

J. Sherman discusses balance in the fund and notes they decided against it just for this year however they do support it but felt it didn't have an immediate need so that was a place to save.

L. Komornick inquires what would happen if the vote for both Recreations passed.

J. Penta notes there are not 2 Recreation Articles.

J. Sherman notes that after the Public Hearing the BOS will reconvene and have opportunity to reconsider votes on Warrant Article and Budget noting they will consider the recommendation between both BOS and BUDCOM. He notes that after that BUDCOM will meet and if anyone is thinking of an increase in terms of Warrant Articles or Operating Budget then it needs to be disclosed at this meeting.

D. Hooper notes any item can be raised or lowered.

J. Sherman notes it is only for new items.

K. Lewis Savage discusses generators.

J. Sherman notes it is not in front of us now for discussion however since it has been mentioned he discusses options but notes there are no firm plans however they have been talking about replacing the generator.

L. Komornick discusses that she has received a Citizen Petition regarding taking over Main Street noting that there is no dollar amount attached to it but it will have implications and inquires what needs to be done with a Petition Article with no money attached to it.

J. Penta notes if it does not involve money then we don't do anything. She discusses there are a number of members of the Budget Committee that will be finishing their terms and discusses the open slots noting there will be 6 openings and the sign ups are from January 21 through January 30 noting the Town Clerk will be open from 3-5 on January 30th for signups for office only. She thanks the Board for working with her on this Budget and the Town Manager noting she has enjoyed her time on the Budget Committee for the last 8 years and won't be returning in September.

J. Sherman notes on behalf of the BOS he would like to thank Jan for her services.

Public Hearing adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Audrey Michaud