

DRAFT

Budget Committee Minutes

Town of Sandown, NH

Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Type of Meeting: Public

Method of Notification: Public posting – Town Hall & Post Office

Meeting Location: Town Hall, Second Floor

Members Present: Bruce Cleveland, Selectwoman Copp (*Selectman Ex-Officio*), Dawn

Nicolaisen, Mindy Salomone-Abood, Ralph Millard and Robert Millard

Cathy Gorman arrived at 6:40.

Recording Secretary: Sue Reynolds

Meeting was called to order by Chair Mindy Salomone-Abood at 6:30 PM.

Mindy Salomone-Abood asked the Committee to review the minutes of Wednesday,

October 12, 2011.

Motion by Selectwoman Copp to accept the minutes of Wednesday, October 12, 2011 as written.

Seconded by Bruce Cleveland.

In Favor Mindy Salomone-Abood, Bruce Cleveland, Dawn Nicolaisen, Ralph Millard,

Robert Millard, Selectwoman Copp.

Motion passes unanimously

Motion by Mindy Salomone-Abood to put the Highway Facility Account budget 4311.0

on the table for discussion.

Seconded by Selectwoman Copp.

This budget is being presented by Artie Genuardo. Mindy thanks Artie for filling out the budget worksheet.

31 (Cathy Gorman arrived at this time.)
32 Mindy asked Artie how he figured out the amount for his heating oil line and Artie said
33 he sat down with the Finance Director and he based it on what he has used so far this year
34 and what is remaining. Bruce Cleveland asked about the Phone line being reduced and
35 Artie said he is really not sure but it could be a change in the cell phone plan. Ralph
36 Millard asked if the building is insulated and Artie said half the building is insulated and
37 he is looking into insulating it with a partial grant. Artie also stated he received a grant
38 for a waste oil furnace. He said he will run the waste oil furnace during the day and in
39 the evening the regular heat will be turned on. Mindy said that she remembers this being
40 talked about in past years too and Artie said they have and they finally got a letter from
41 the State saying they have been accepted to receive the grant so they are able to move
42 forward next year. Artie also said he has handed the quotes into the office for this and he
43 is also putting a warrant article together to have the other half of the garage insulated.
44 Robert Millard asked why the internet line is lower and Artie stated the rates that the
45 BOS received were lower for next year. Artie stated that he cut the budget as much as he
46 possibly could.

47 **Motion by** Selectman Copp to accept the Highway Facility Account budget with Gross
48 Expenses of \$9,868.00, Revenue of \$0.00 and Net Expenses of \$9,868.00 pending further
49 review.

50 **Seconded by** Dawn Nicolaisen.

51 **In Favor** Mindy Salomone-Abood, Selectwoman Copp, Dawn Nicolaisen, Bruce
52 Cleveland, Robert Millard, Ralph Millard and Cathy Gorman.

53 **Motion passes unanimously.**

54

55

56 **Motion by Mindy Salomone-Abood to put the Highway Operating Account budget**
57 **4132.0 on the table for discussion.**

58 **Seconded by Bruce Cleveland.**

59 This budget is being presented by Artie Genuardo. Artie said that he presented the
60 Committee with specific paperwork in regards to this budget and also added “notes” to
61 help explain the expenses. Mindy thanked him for putting this together. Robert Millard

62 asked about the Equipment Purchase line and what Artie was planning to purchase next
63 year. Artie said he isn't planning on purchasing anything new, but he needs money in
64 this line in case he has to replace any equipment that breaks, which is why he lowered it
65 \$1,000.00 from last year. Robert Millard asked why the Repair & Maintenance line is up
66 \$1,000.00 from last year and Artie said he has a truck that is in need of major repairs and
67 instead of asking to purchase a new truck he would like to repair the one in need. Mindy
68 Salomone-Abood asks if Artie feels he has enough money in that line as he is over budget
69 on that this year. Artie said if he needs more money he will use money from his block
70 grant if he needs to. Ralph Millard reminds Artie of a conversation from last year in
71 regards to Cross Road falling apart due to a lot of water. Artie said the Town has a lot of
72 roads like that and Artie said he actually walked Cross Road with the Town Engineer in
73 hopes to begin work on it. Artie stated that the BOS asked Artie to change the Road
74 Improvement Plan to incorporate other roads during the next phase. He said that Fremont
75 Road will also be on hold for this phase as Holts Point needs to be done sooner than later.
76 Artie also stated that North Road needs to be fixed this year or it will deteriorate as it was
77 never top coated 7 years ago when it was paved. The plan for next year's Road
78 Improvement Plan is Holt's Point Rd, drainage on Phillips Wood Rd and also to top coat
79 North Road and to replace 2 pipes on North Road as well. Artie said he understands
80 Ralph's concern as there are a lot of roads in Town that need repair but he is trying to get
81 the worse ones done first and also the ones with the most traffic on them. He also said
82 Cross Road will be a whole new road, not just a patch or paving. Robert Millard asked
83 Artie why he doesn't ask for all that he needs in the budget instead of relying on the
84 block grant money. Artie said he is trying to keep his budget as low as possible and
85 refers to the letter he received from the Budget Committee in August which asks him to
86 keep his budget level funded. Robert said he would like to see a more transparent budget
87 and increase the Repair & Maintenance line to what it would cost to fix the truck that is
88 in question. Robert asked if the Repair & Maintenance line was increase by \$1,500.00
89 would that be enough and Artie said yes.

90 **Motion by** Robert Millard to increase the Repair & Maintenance line to \$6,500.00 to
91 repair the Town truck.

92 **Seconded by** Selectwoman Copp.

93 Bruce Cleveland said he is agrees with the number but suggests to put it under Vehicle
94 Maintenance instead of the Repair and Maintenance line. Artie says that makes sense to
95 him. Both the second and the motions have been withdrawn.

96 **Motion by** Robert Millard to increase the Vehicle Maintenance line from \$4,000.00 to
97 \$6,500.00.

98 **Seconded by** Selectwoman Copp.

99 **In Favor** Mindy Salomone-Abood, Selectwoman Copp, Dawn Nicolaisen, Bruce
100 Cleveland, Robert Millard, Ralph Millard and Cathy Gorman.

101 **Motion passes unanimously.**

102 **Motion by** Robert Millard to decrease the Repair and Maintenance line from \$5,000.00 to
103 \$4,000.00.

104 **Seconded by** Bruce Cleveland.

105 **In Favor** Mindy Salomone-Abood, Selectwoman Copp, Dawn Nicolaisen, Bruce
106 Cleveland, Robert Millard, Ralph Millard and Cathy Gorman.

107 **Motion passes unanimously.**

108 Bruce Cleveland asks Artie about the salt line and feels that he shorted himself. Artie
109 said that last year he tried using molasses mixed with the salt to reduce the amount of salt
110 used and he said it worked really well. He plans to do the same thing for next year as
111 well. He also will mix it with the sand and this will reduce the sand line as well. He
112 stated that the molasses keeps the salt on the road and the roads do not freeze as quick.
113 He also explains that he pres-salts the in and out roads prior to the storm. He said that he
114 saved 4 or 5 loads of salt per storm last year and also the molasses act as a lubricant and
115 coats the sanders and keeps them from rotting. Mindy Salomone-Abood asked how long
116 the Road Improvement Plan has been in place and Artie said since '08 and it has never
117 been voted down. Mindy asked if Artie felt the residents were vested in the plan and how
118 Artie felt about removing \$100,000.00 for the Road Improvement Plan from the budget.
119 Artie said he understands what Mindy is saying, but he is concerned that the residents
120 may not agree that the roads are being switched around and this may cause them not to be
121 in favor of the plan this year. Robert Millard asked about the officer details and how
122 come the amount budgeted is not being used. Artie said he did lower the line \$1,000.00
123 and he wasn't able to do what he wanted to do last year for work, therefore the line was

124 not used. Artie also said that there is a Town Ordinance in place that he has to have
125 officer details when work is done on certain roads in Town.

126 **Motion by** Mindy Salomone-Abood to reduce the DPW Director's rate of pay for 39
127 weeks to \$40.02 per hour, which totals \$46,823.40.

128 **Seconded by** Cathy Gorman.

129 Selectwoman Copp asks what the total amount of the decrease is and Mindy said
130 \$936.00. Selectwoman Copp said she has been against taking the 2% increase out of the
131 budgets from the beginning and she feels when the Town has a good employee such as
132 Artie, with saving the Town money in many different ways, she feels that the Budget
133 Committee should not take the increase away from them. She said that the amount he has
134 saved the Town is so much more than the amount that is being taken away from him.
135 She said that Artie is not the only good employee that the Town has and she also said
136 previously she stated it was a total increase of \$13,000.00 in the \$3,000,000.00 budget
137 and now she is saying it is less than that as not everyone received the 2% increase and she
138 feels what the Budget Committee is doing is terrible. Robert Millard stated that the
139 Committee is not denying anyone a pay raise. He said that the BOS already approved the
140 raises and if a department head feels and employee deserves a raise they can "find it"
141 somewhere in their budget to give it to them. Bruce Cleveland appreciates what Robert is
142 saying but he feels the Budget Committee should have transparent budgets and if the
143 Committee is asking the department heads to "find" the money somewhere in the budget
144 then it is not transparent and he also feels it is not an ethical way of budgeting. Dawn
145 Nicolaisen said the Committee is asking all the departments to come in with as tight of a
146 budget as they can and she feels there won't be any money in the budget for the salary
147 increases. She said the Committee should be approving what the departments will
148 actually be using. Robert Millard said the BOS approved the raises and he doesn't feel it
149 should come from the tax payer's money so that is why the Budget Committee is voting
150 to reduce the budget. He also said that the BOS had a surplus of \$140,000.00 last year
151 that they had access to. Selectwoman Copp said that last year the BOS agreed to use
152 \$170,000.00 last year to the school taxes to reduce the tax impact for the Town. She said
153 it not there for the BOS to use as they wish, the BOS has certain guidelines as to how the
154 surplus can be accessed. She also said the budgets have been coming in either level

155 funded or less than level funded from last year and there will not be any place in the
156 budget for department heads or the BOS to find the money for the salary increases. She
157 said that when the Budget Committee votes down the increases then unless something
158 changes at Deliberative Session (and she hopes that it does) there will not be any money
159 for salary increases. She also said that one of the increases that were removed was only
160 \$171.00 and she is asking Committee Members not to make incorrect statements as to
161 what the BOS can and can't do with the extra money in the budget at the end of the year.
162 Robert Millard explained that if an employee makes \$48,000.00 per year then a pay raise
163 is not called for. He said that is it time the Town tightens their belt.

164 ***In Favor*** Mindy Salomone-Abood, Cathy Gorman, Robert Millard, Ralph Millard.

165 ***Opposed*** Bruce Cleveland, Selectwoman Copp, Dawn Nicolaisen.

166 ***Motion passes 4-3-0***

167

168 ***Motion by*** Mindy Salomone-Abood to reduce the hourly rate for the Assistant for the 39
169 weeks to \$17.69 per hour so the total salary for the 39 weeks is \$27,596.40.

170 ***Seconded by*** Robert Millard.

171 Ralph Millard said he feels it is becoming personal as he is not in favor of the increases.
172 He said he is not trying to punish anyone and that they may deserve the raises but at this
173 time he feels they are not necessary.

174 ***In Favor*** Mindy Salomone-Abood, Cathy Gorman, Robert Millard, Ralph Millard.

175 ***Opposed*** Bruce Cleveland, Selectwoman Copp, Dawn Nicolaisen.

176 ***Motion passes 4-3-0***

177

178 ***Motion by*** Mindy Salomone-Abood that the rate of the Laborer 1 remains at \$17.15 for
179 the 39 weeks totaling \$26,754.00.

180 ***Seconded by*** Robert Millard.

181 ***In Favor*** Mindy Salomone-Abood, Cathy Gorman, Robert Millard, Ralph Millard.

182 ***Opposed*** Bruce Cleveland, Selectwoman Copp, Dawn Nicolaisen.

183 ***Motion passes 4-3-0***

184

185

186 **Motion by** Mindy Salomone-Abood to change the Payroll line item to \$156,856.96.

187 **Seconded by** Robert Millard.

188 **In Favor** Mindy Salomone-Abood, Cathy Gorman, Robert Millard, Ralph Millard.

189 **Opposed** Bruce Cleveland, Selectwoman Copp, Dawn Nicolaisen.

190 **Motion passes 4-3-0**

191

192 **Motion by** Mindy Salomone-Abood to change the Paving line to \$0.00 and the

193 \$100,000.00 to be included in the amount in the warrant article for the Road

194 Improvement Plan.

195 **Seconded by** Robert Millard.

196 Selectwoman Copp explains to the Committee that this is put in the budget in the so if the

197 warrant article does not pass then Artie still has some money to do patching and a little

198 bit of repair work. She said this line item is only spent on the Road Improvement Plan.

199 She said if this is removed from the budget and the warrant article is voted down then

200 there is no money available to make repairs to the roads in Town. She also said the

201 warrant article will be increased by \$100,000.00 and she feels the residents won't

202 understand that the \$100,000.00 was removed from the budget. Mindy Salomone-Abood

203 said that she made the motion because the Road Improvement Plan has been in effect

204 since 2008 and it has passed every year and the Committee keeps talking about a

205 transparent budget and feels for transparency all of the money should be in the warrant

206 article and not some money in the budget and some money in the warrant article.

207 Selectwoman Copp said this is transparent and the money for that line is only used for

208 road repairs as stated in the Road Improvement Plan. Bruce Cleveland asked for some

209 clarification as to how the Road Improvement Plan works. Artie said the warrant article

210 is has been for about \$250,000.00 each year for the past few years and it has passed every

211 year. It said that the \$100,000.00 was put in the budget in case the warrant article did not

212 pass then he will still have some money to do road improvements but if all of the money

213 is put in the warrant article and the article fails then he can't do any road improvements

214 or repairs for that year. Artie said in years past, prior to the Road Improvement Plan, the

215 warrant articles didn't pass because the voters didn't agree with the roads that were being

216 paved. Selectwoman Copp said a few years ago Sandy Graves from the Budget

217 Committee came up with the idea to put \$100,000.00 in the budget because the warrant
218 articles for road repairs were continuously being voted down year after year. Sandy felt
219 if \$100,000.00 was removed from the warrant article and put in the budget it would be
220 easier for the voters to vote yes on the warrant article but if the article didn't pass there
221 will still be money in the budget for road repairs. Mindy said that Artie has access to his
222 block grant money and can use that for road repairs. Cathy Gorman said that according
223 to the P&L she has the money hasn't been used from that line in the past few years. Artie
224 explained that last year he wasn't happy with the work that was done and he held
225 payment until he was satisfied, which wasn't until the following year. Cathy Gorman
226 asked if the \$300,000.00 is being spent every year and Artie said yes, give or take. He
227 said that it will take 3 years to complete the work on Fremont Rd. He also said the money
228 in the Road Improvement Plan is used for culverts, etc. Artie said he explains the Road
229 Improvement Plan every year at Deliberative Session and feels that the residents are
230 passing the budgets because they understand it. Cathy said if that is the case then there
231 shouldn't be a problem with putting all of the money in the warrant article. Selectwoman
232 Copp said if the article doesn't pass then there is no money in the budget for repairs, and
233 Mindy Salomone-Aboud said he can use the block grant money. Selectwoman Copp said
234 the block grant money is used for truck repairs, culverts, catch basins, and for snow
235 removal if needed. Artie also stated that his block grant money is \$25,000.00 less than
236 last year. Artie asks the Committee what will happen if the Road Improvement Plan
237 article fails and a part of North Road falls apart and there is no money in the budget to
238 repair it. Robert Millard said he'd like to see the money in one place. Bruce Cleveland
239 asked if the amount of the \$100,000.00 can be included in the warrant article. Artie said
240 he can talk to the office about that and Selectwoman Copp said that the wording of the
241 articles get approved from the DRA so it may not be possible to include that wording.
242 Dawn Nicolaisen asks if the Committee votes to remove the \$100,000.00 from the budget
243 and the warrant article fails and there is massive flooding and the roads need to be
244 repaired she is concerned that there won't be money available to do so. She said she
245 keeps hearing that the BOS need to "find" the money and she said no one will be able to
246 "find" \$100,000.00 because all of the budgets are coming very tight. She is asking the
247 Committee to be sensible and understand the impact this decision can have. Ralph

248 Millard said it is not up to the Committee to worry about it, but rather the voters should
249 be educated on what they are voting on.

250 ***In Favor*** Mindy Salomone-Abood, Cathy Gorman, Robert Millard, Ralph Millard.

251 ***Opposed*** Bruce Cleveland, Selectwoman Copp, Dawn Nicolaisen.

252 ***Motion passes 4-3-0***

253

254 Robert Millard asked how many employees receive the benefit of the uniforms and Artie
255 said 3. Robert said he agrees with the boot allowance but doesn't feel the Town should
256 pay for uniforms and to have them cleaned. Artie said he'd be glad to discuss in 2013 as
257 he is currently under contract until then. Robert stated that any contract can be broken at
258 any time. Artie said that this is something that the BOS wanted so the workers can be
259 identified. Robert feels this can be done by wearing vests and feels that most of the time
260 the workers are not even in uniforms. Artie disagrees and said that the workers are
261 always wearing their uniforms. Cathy Gorman is in favor of the uniforms but feels the
262 Town should not pay for the cleaning of them. Artie said the boot allowance is \$100.00
263 per person each year. Robert suggests that the employees wear vests instead of full
264 uniforms. Artie said they already have the vests. Mindy said the uniforms are worn so
265 that the employees' close don't get ruined. Bruce feels that they should have the
266 uniforms. Robert said that he knows people in the field and he was there at one point too,
267 and he feels that the Town should not be responsible for supplying the uniforms.

268 ***Motion by*** Robert Millard to reduce the Uniform line to \$300.00.

269 ***Seconded by*** Ralph Millard.

270 Cathy Gorman feels that a clothing allowance should be allowed but she is not in favor of
271 the Town paying for the clothes to be washed. Ralph Millard said that OSHA made a
272 requirement this week that all safety equipment is to be paid by the employer.

273 ***In Favor*** Robert Millard, Ralph Millard.

274 ***Opposed*** Mindy Salomone-Abood, Cathy Gorman, Bruce Cleveland, Selectwoman Copp,
275 Dawn Nicolaisen.

276 ***Motion fails 2-5-0***

277

278

279 Mindy Salomone-Abood stated the Revenue comes from the driveway permits, which are
280 \$35.00 each.

281 **Motion by** Mindy Salomone-Abood to accept the Highway Operating Account budget
282 with Gross Expenses of \$416,339.36, Revenue of \$350.00 and Net Expenses of
283 \$415,989.36 pending further review.

284 **Seconded by** Robert Millard.

285 **In favor** Mindy Salomone-Abood, Bruce Cleveland, Robert Millard, Ralph Millard,
286 Cathy Gorman.

287 **Opposed** Selectwoman Copp, Dawn Nicolaisen.

288 **Motion passes 5-2-0**

289

290 Mindy Salomone-Abood said the budgets that will be discussed next week are the
291 Sanitation Facility Account, Sanitation Operating Account, Sanitation Site and the
292 Recycling budgets.

293

294 Meeting adjourned at 7:55

295

296 Respectfully submitted,

297 Sue Reynolds