DRAFT
Minutes
Budget Committee
Town of Sandown, NH

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6 Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2016

7 Type of Meeting: Regular Public Meeting

8 Method of Notification: Public Posting – Two locations at Town Hall

9 Meeting Location: Sandown Town Hall, Upper Hall

10 Present: Stephen Brown-Chairman, Michael Costanzo – Vice-chair, Lee

Dube, Sue Reynolds, Fran Rosenau, Lorna Walker, Tom

Tombarello (Selectmen's Representative)

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14 Recording Secretary: Cheryl Eastman

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18 Steve called the meeting to order at 7:30. The pledge of allegiance was said.

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The Committee reviewed the minutes of October 26, 2016. Lorna said Steve Meisner's name was misspelled on line 107. Lorna motion made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Fran. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

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Library #4550

Library Director Kirsten Corbett and Library Trustees Adrienne Skora, Diana True, Tina Owens, and Peter Stock presented the budget. Lee questioned the electricity line because the Board of Selectmen approved \$4,500 when the Library had requested \$4,000. Kirsten explained that the new electric rates had come in after the budget was drafted, but before they met with the Board of Selectmen, so that had to be adjusted. The change in the Benefits line is a result of the Board of Selectmen deciding on a health plan for the coming year. The other change was taking the \$500 out of the Office Expenses line to make up for the increase in the electricity line. Tina explained that they looked at what the upcoming increases might be for the school budget and dropped some items out of the budget in an effort to keep the budget level. Kirsten explained that the only increases in the budget are personnel expenses. Michael questioned the increase in the bank fees line. Kirsten said the Library is no longer eligible for business direct banking through TD Bank because of changes in the bank's requirements and as a result they are going to be charged \$800 a month for direct deposit. She added that they are looking at finding a solution to that problem. Lee made a motion to accept the Library budget with gross expenses of \$307,929, zero revenue, and net expenses of \$307,929, pending further review. Motion seconded by Fran. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

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Insurance #4196

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81 82 Lynne Blaisdell presented the budget. She explained that the Property Liability insurance is under an agreement with a new company that has price caps over the next 2 years. **Sue made a motion** to accept the Insurance budget with gross expenses of \$101,511, zero revenue, and gross expenses of \$101,511, pending further review. **Motion seconded by Tom**. All voted in favor. **Motion carried**.

Government Buildings #4194

Lynne Blaisdell presented the budget. She explained that in the 2016 budget there had been \$10,000 allocated for A/C at the Police Station on the second floor. This is the cost to tie the seconded floor into the central A/C system in the rest of the building. Those funds had to be used to replace the roof on the lower part of the Town Hall instead. In the 2017 budget the \$10,000 is put back in again. Steve said he remembered when the Police Station was being remodeled that the Chief had said he didn't need to put A/C upstairs. Tom commented that he would rather see A/C installed in the town hall meeting room instead of at the Police Station. The Police have a couple window units that can use used on the second floor. Tom said he is not in favor of installing A/C in the Police Station this year. He feels it is a better use of the money to cool the upstairs meeting room in the town hall. Lee said that he thought the second floor of the Police Station isn't used all the time anyway. The Police Chief is bringing his budget back to the Board of Selectmen next Monday and then to the Budget Committee on Wednesday. Lynne said when we get closer to public hearing time we can re-look at the numbers. Fran asked if any repairs to the Depot are included in the Miscellaneous Repairs line. Lynne said that line is for any unexpected problems throughout the year, such as a water heater, water pump, furnace. This line was budgeted for several years at \$4,000 but is always overspent. The town has some really old buildings that need to be taken care of. Lynne said there are currently no funds in this budget for any repairs at the Depot. Tom added that the roof repairs at the Old Meeting House was going to be a warrant article, but he is concerned because if the article fails then no funds can be spent to repair the building because of the "No means no" rule. If there is water damage in the Old Meeting House it will ruin the woodwork and cause more damage. He added that the floors in the town hall meeting room need to be refinished as well. The quote for that work is \$10,000. Lynne explained that she gets an initial price for budgeted purposes, but if and when the budget passes then the town will go out to bid to get the best possible price. Steve asked why the Board of Selectmen kept the \$10,000 in the budget for the A/C is they were not for it. Lynne explained they left it in the budget to look at later once we have more solid numbers and it may possibly be reduced then. Lee feels that money should be spent on the town hall meeting room and perhaps the A/C at the Police Station should be a warrant article. Lynne said she had an initial quote of \$15,000 for installing Mitsubishi A/C units for the town hall. Lee said he would rather fund it at \$15,000 because of the amount of use the meeting room gets. Lynne said when we get closer to the end of the year, if some projects can be funding this year, she will do that and pull those amounts out of the 2017 budget. Michael asked about the paving of the town hall parking lot project. Lynne

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said that project failed twice in warrant articles. She added that they have also talked about a renovation of the lower offices in the town hall and converting the entrance next to the Clerk's office to a handicap accessible entrance in combination with parking lot repair and paving. She is still meeting with designers on that project. This is a 17% increase in this requested budget, partially because last year there were not a lot of projects. Tom added that the Board wants to make the improvements to the building, but is concerned with the increase in health insurance and where the school budget is going. Lee made a motion to accept the Government Buildings budget with gross expenses of \$112,050, revenue of \$1,000, and net expenses of \$111,050, pending further review. Motion seconded by Lorna. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Executive #4130-01

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Lynne Blaisdell presented the budget. She explained that the majority of the increases are due to Stormwater Management and Computer Support/Hardware/Software. Management reporting is due to new Federal regulations. The EPA will be issuing permits to towns along water sources to the Great Bay. There are requirements that go along with the permits that include public education, mapping, and the affect of pollution on the Great Bay area. There have been long delays in the permits being issued, but once they are issued, the towns will have 90 days to comply with the requirements. Overall this will be at least a five year process, if not more. Right now no one knows exactly what is going to be required with these permits and it is difficult to budget for the unknown. Rockingham Planning Commission is working with us to help us, but we will need to hire consultants and engineers to work through the process. If the requirements deadlines are not met, fines will be assessed. The Rockingham Planning Commission has said that the town should plan on estimated costs of \$25,000 for the first year. The cost is for the work that will need to be done to be in compliance with the permit and reporting for compliance. There will need to be development, implementation, and enforcement of a stormwater program, identifying pollutants, outfalls, lists of discharges, mapping, public education and outreach, training of employees, and implementation of ordinances. Because we don't know what the requirements of the permit are going to be, we cannot put out RFP's or get quotes. This is a federally mandated program with no federal funds to cover the costs.

Lynne explained that the increase in the Computer lines is a result of the fact that the server that houses all the information for the town has reached its maximum capacity and lifespan. It is about 4 to 5 years old and originally cost \$11,000 to \$12,000, but there is no longer any support offered on it. It is currently running Small Business 2003 as the operating system. Our IT vendor (RMON) has developed a strategy. Several computers need to be replaced as well. The Clerk's office needs three new computers and the Assessing computer should be replaced. Lynne has a quote for new server and 80 hours of work to change over the system for around \$22,000. This would be a purchase of the new server. That does not include any new computers. There is also a lease option. This option will get the e-mail out to a cloud-based system and allow access to e-mail and all documents from anywhere. If we lose power, e-mail would still be available. It would be one server acting as four servers, doing domain,

components, back-up to the domain, and a file server. The cost to maintain all that is an increase of \$3,000 over than last year. If everything was leased, it would increase the cost to \$27,000. The total price for the anti-virus, Office 365, back-up for licenses, software that runs the servers, and three years of support for it all would be \$16,000 a year for three years. A new server is the most immediate need. If we do nothing to upgrade the server, if it goes down it will be down for days and will cost more to have it restored. Leasing the equipment will allow us to spread the cost of the installation over the three years. As of now we pay \$20,406 for support, anti-virus, offsite back-up, and firewall licensing. **Sue made a motion** to accept the Executive budget with gross expenses of \$268,327, revenue of \$350, and net expenses of \$267,977, pending further review. **Motion seconded** by Lorna. All voted in favor. **Motion carried.**

Street Lights update

Lynne explained that the Board of Selectmen discussed the street lights. They have asked Chief Gordon to review them for a recommendation. Initially he feels that some of them can be removed.

At 8:43, Steve adjourned the meeting.

 Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Eastman