

Minutes  
**STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Budget Review Meeting**  
March 4, 2008  
7:15 PM  
Town Building

**Call to Order**

Charles Kern called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Present were David Walrath, Gary Bernklow, Steve MacNeill and Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary.  
James Salvie arrived at 7:55pm

**Budget Reviews**

**Police Department**

Charlie asked Chief Trefry what the major changes in his budget were for this year.

Chief Trefry noted the following changes:

- Officer out on leave until the end of FY08
- New officer will fill in the position in FY09
- Part time officers have been filling in the vacant shifts due to being down 1 full time officer
- We have been paying the On Leave officers salary and part time officers to fill in shifts
- Dispatcher resigned and has taken on another job
- New dispatcher is starting
- Increase in shift differential, up \$4k
- Shift differential change – whoever works the shift gets the differential
- Custodian increase in pay
- Municipal light bill is now paid under the Police Departments budget
- Dare pay has been removed from this year's budget. There is enough from last year funds and donations to pay for FY09.

**Highway Department**

Charlie asked Mike Clayton what the major changes in his budget were for this year.

Mike noted the following changes:

- Want to hire a new driver/laborer
- Add Assistant Superintendent (not a new employee)
- Moved Engineering Consultant to expenses side, Engineer would be paid as needed
- Expenses - increased due to repair/maintenance streets by \$51k
- Capital – replacing ¾ ton pick-up bought 9 years ago – dump body replacement
- Has not heard back from state regarding chapter 90
- Recreation committee approached us asking if we would consider taking over the mowing of fields to save the town some money.

The Finance Committee as a whole suggested bumping up the fuel line of the budget

**Planning Department**

Charlie asked Karen Kelleher what the major changes in the budget were for this year.

Karen noted the following changes:

- Basic budget is the same (rollover)
- Increase for administrative assistant

**Capital project**

- meeting room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Karen and Ernie explained the warrant changes and the bylaw changes. They stated that they will be requesting a special town meeting in October.

## **Fire Department**

Charlie asked John Benoit what the major changes in the budget were for this year.

John noted the following changes:

- The number of incidents is growing on an average of approximately 100 per year
- Medical expenses have gone up
- Increase in pay rate for Per diem fire fighters currently at \$12.73 far below area towns
- Increase stipends for officers
- Overtime – 2 fulltime firefighters, if one is out sick we have to fill the shift with full time fire fighter
- Uniform cost increase

### **Capital Projects**

- Refurbish Engine 11, \$134K

### **Special Article**

- Water maintenance, for 2 new dry hydrants at Gleasondale Rd, Randall Rd

### **Vote to add Warrant Article**

David Walrath moved to place an article on the warrant to transfer unused account funds to an account agreed upon by Finance Committee and Bill Wrigley. James Salvie seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath, Salvie and Bernklow)

### **Reserve Fund Transfer Requests**

Highway – Gas and Diesel Fuel - \$36,000

For the purchase of gas and diesel fuel to be used for town equipment use.

ON HOLD UNTIL 3/11/08 MEETING

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by James Salvie at 9:20 pm. David Walrath seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath, Salvie and Bernklow)

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,  
Secretary

### **\*Action Item\***

Have Dotty Wilbur come talk to us regarding the recap sheet.