

**JOINT BOARD
OF THE TOWNS OF
SUNAPEE, NEWBURY, AND NEW LONDON
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016
SUNAPEE TOWN OFFICE**

Present: Dennis Pavlicek (Newbury Town Administrator), Kim Hallquist (New London Town Administrator), Donna Nashawaty (Sunapee Town Manager), Gary Daniels (Newbury Resident), Norm Bernaiche (Chief Assessor), Kris McAllister (Assessor)

Absent: Rem Mastin (Sunapee Resident), Suzanne Gottling (Sunapee Board of Selectmen); Janet Kidder (New London Board of Selectmen)

Kim Hallquist called the meeting to order at 8:08 am

Minutes from June 28, 2016: Dennis made a motion to approve the minutes. Donna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Recap (2016 year to date)

Mr. Pavlicek said that he has only expensed out the first two quarters. The workers comp payment was made in 3rd quarter and it has been reduced but they need to work on it. Everything looks OK for wages and the bottom line will not be over-expended.

Mr. Pavlicek said that the Assessors would like to replace their laptops and they should have enough in the budget to replace one. Mr. Bernaiche said that the laptops are four years old and Ms. McAllister's is acting up. They will get prices from Competitive Computers, it has been spec'd based on what it was before and it was roughly \$1,000. There was a brief conversation about if they should go to Microsoft 10 as Newbury is on Microsoft 7. Mr. Pavlicek asked if they have enough in the budget if they should replace both and there was a discussion about doing it at once or one this year and one next year. The Board decided it would be good to take the money out of this year's budget for one and put the money in next year's budget for the other. Mrs. Nashawaty said that she would like the Assessor's to keep one of their laptops up to date as a backup.

Mr. Daniels asked about the health and dental expenses in the 1st half. Mr. Pavlicek said that there was a mistake that was made for the apportionment and it will be fixed in the 3rd quarter. Everything is pretty much the same.

Mrs. Nashawaty asked if Newbury is looking at other health insurance plans. Mr. Pavlicek said that they will be dropping the \$5 co-pay plan and going with the \$10 but they will not know for sure until their budget process is done.

Discussed Proposed budget for 2017

Mr. Pavlicek said that they should move forward with health and dental with what they have now and he will update the numbers and let the Board know what they will be and they will ratify the numbers in December.

Mrs. Nashawaty made a motion to approve moving forward with the current health and dental costs and having Mr. Pavlicek update the Board with the correct numbers and ratifying them in December. Mr. Daniels seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pavlicek explained that he calculated wages based on latest information and added 3% to that number. The ICMA expense is reflected by the latest memo that they received and a 3% increase. The Health and Dental expenses are the same and the other insurance the same. The Workers Comp expense dropped by \$500 based on new ratio. The Property Liability expense is \$600 and is based on Tri-Town's inflation of the appropriations. The Travel expense, Administrative expense, Cell Phone expense, Dues expense, Staff Development expense, Supplies expense, and Publications expense are all the same. Mr. Pavlicek continued that they will add \$1,000 to the laptops and will have \$10,000 in contracted services. Hopefully The Insurance expense will not change that much but the problem with going to a high deductible is that they give you a break and then they start mushrooming. Mr. Pavlicek said that last year they did not have an increase on Dental and had a small increase in Health Insurance. Newbury pays all the insurance for up to two people and the employee pays the difference between a two person and a family plan. The final proposed 2017 total budget is \$293.450 with a slight increase in Health and Dental Insurance.

Mr. Daniels made a motion to accept the 2017 proposed budget pending the changes to the budget with the Health and Dental Insurance. Mrs. Nashawaty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Quarterly Recap: Norm Bernaiche

Newbury Reval

Mr. Bernaiche and Ms. McAllister explained that the Newbury revaluation is done, the letters went out last week and they have about 50 appointments. The representative from DRA will be there today to oversee the hearings and talk to taxpayer to see if their concerns were addressed. Mr. Bernaiche said that from his perspective they have been busy, court the past two days that he feels went well. They have answered emails, have some phone appointments, and are meeting with taxpayers. When they have informal reviews, if they have a rush of people in a certain neighborhood or something, they look at what they may have done incorrectly. However, if they have had three sales in a neighborhood and assessments go up, they expect to explain that.

Mrs. Nashawaty asked if there are any repercussions with overtime, nights, weekends, etc. as Mr. Bernaiche is salary and Ms. McAllister is hourly. Mr. Bernaiche said that they are fitting everything into their day.

Mr. Bernaiche said that this revaluation has been less stressful out of the three. Ms. McAllister said that Newbury is more laid back but they have put a lot of information out to taxpayers. Mr. Bernaiche said that they have done trainings with realtors and worked with taxpayers with the information. Mrs. Nashawaty asked and it was explained that the GIS information was updated before the letters went out. Mr. Bernaiche explained that they also put a lot of information on the website so people can access it.

Abatements / Appeals

Ms. McAllister said that they are going to the Supreme Court with a property owner in New London. Mr. Bernaiche said that this was a fire damaged building. The Town is being penalized for being proactive with their taxpayer, even though they did not have to. Ms. McAllister said that the Selectmen in New London used to do things that were not allowed to do in the past and now there is a law that says that they can do it but there are rules that have to be followed. The case is arguing that the Selectmen should continue to do what they did before because they had a precedent for it, though they should not have done it. Ms. McAllister said that she had notified the owners that they had to file the form within 60 days and they did not file the form.

Ms. McAllister said that they have another case in New London coming up for the most valuable property on the lake. The property is 78 acres with over half a mile of waterfront but the property is in current use.

Mr. Bernaiche said that they have not been served yet with any Superior Court appeals. They may have some BTLA cases and will have to call them.

Mr. Bernaiche said that the phone and electric companies are moving forward. The case is at the Supreme Court for the electric company. In Newbury, the DRA ordered them to make a change to the values for PSNH. They have decided to go with the utilities value in Newbury. Sunapee is upset that the DRA has been allowed to enter the case as a friend of the taxpayer. The Towns had won and the utility companies have filed an appeal so the DRA has now entered the fight with the utility companies.

Other

There was a discussion about waterfront sales and houses that are being built.

Ms. Hallquist said that she would have the safety policy at the next meeting.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2016 in New London.

Nonpublic Session: Norm's Evaluation

Dennis made a motion to go into Non public Session Under RSA-91-a to discuss Mr. Bernaiche's evaluation. The roll call was made and approved.

Adjournment