BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES- VEAZIE

Date: April 9, 2013

Attendance: Pat Rice, Patrick Joyce, Chuck Osgood

Absent: Travis Noyes

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by interim Town Manager Mark Leonard.

First order of business was to elect a chairperson. Chuck Osgood nominated Pat Rice, seconded by Patrick Joyce with unanimous vote to approve Ms. Rice as Chairman.

Second order of business to elect a secretary. Patrick Joyce nominated Chuck Osgood, seconded by Pat Rice with unanimous vote to approve Mr. Osgood as Secretary.

Next meeting scheduled for Wed. April 17th at 6:30 to review Fire, Police and Government budgets.

Also will meet on April 23 to review school budget. Meetings also scheduled May 6 and May 8, if necessary.

Mr. Leonard advised the committee that we needed to review 2 budgets from each department: the first being a “standard” budget without a reduction in revenue sharing funds, and the second a budget that takes into consideration a goal of reducing the overall Municipal budget by 20%. Items that impact the structure of individual departments will be reviewed by the Town Council and not a subject for review by the Budget Committee.

Ms. Rice applauded all Department Heads and Mr. Leonard for their thorough review of their budgets under difficult conditions.

Public Works:

Presentation made by Dennis Farnham. Proposed standard budget of $121,313 is a reduction of $72,097, principally due to an employee leaving this year as well as getting competitive quotes from various venders. Although the Town will benefit from a lower cost contract for salt purchases, approx. 16%, this year, Mr. Farnham suggests that we keep the same level at $35,100, since we used all but $3,000 this year, and this season was not severe. After review of the line items, the Committee made the following suggestions:

1. Utilize the Cemetery’s Perpetual Care Fund, which according to Julie Reed has approximately $40,000 in available funds net of $20,000 owed the general fund and net of the Trust’s original principal, to pay for re-sodding (due to grub damage) and deferred maintenance totaling $5,000, with $1,000 to continue as a Public Works expense item. Result is a $5,000 reduction to the Public Works budget.
2. Eliminate $2,000 Equipment Reserve allocation given the $84,000 Public Works Reserve balance and no identified major capital purchases. James Parker from the audience suggested that the Public Works department share the Sewer District’s 1 ton truck if needed, since Mr. Farnham mentioned the possible purchase of a 1 ton truck. Mr. Parker indicated that a formal agreement would have to be approved by the Sewer District’s trustees. Net result is a $2,000 reduction to the Public Works budget.
3. Requested that Julie Reed research the Town’s options for transferring balances from the Equipment Reserve account to the general fund since the Town has reduced its need for equipment purchases. Julie indicated that she would do so before the next budget committee.
4. Continue to look for grants to support cemetery maintenance.
5. Sell excess or unused equipment estimated at $17,700

Parks & Recreation:

Robert Young presented the proposed budget which shows a $795 reduction from last year, with reductions to programs more than offsetting benefits increases. The Committee made the following recommendations:

1. Combine the Office Supplies and After School accounts and come back to the Committee with a reduced overall cost.
2. Adopt a $100 fee for field rentals
3. Charge Orono High School $500 for the use of the tennis courts.
4. Increase usage fees across the board per schedule
5. In lieu of eliminating the Summer Recreation Program, strive to make the program self supporting with fees offsetting cost. Consider special “cost neutral” excursions (Fun Town?) if there is an interest.

Fire Department:

Chief Gerry Martin made a general presentation about the department. A comprehensive review of the proposed “standard” budget will be made at the next Budget meeting. The Committee does recommend the following :

in conjunction with the 20% reduction request for the Fire Department, adoption of all items listed in the document titled “FY 13/14 Suggestions for Reduction, Cost Savings, or Revenue Increase to meet 20% budget request”, with the exception of those items that affect personnel contracts.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the sale of Engine 191- the Committee will need additional information, specifically how the sale would impact insurance rates for the town.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.

By:

C. Osgood, Secretary