

WOLFEBORO BUDGET COMMITTEE
October 8, 2009
MINUTES

Members Present: John MacDonald, Chairman, Scott Smith, Vice-Chairman, Marge Webster, Selectmen's Representative, Ned Giroux, Harold Parker, Jim Eisenhower, Robert Moholland, John Burt, Allan Bailey, Members.

Member Absent: Brian Black, Member (excused).

Staff Present: Dave Owen, Town Manager, Pete Chamberlain, Finance Director, Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

Chairman MacDonald opened the public hearing at 5:40 PM.

NEW BUSINESS I – BUDGET APPROPRIATION & REVENUE REPORTS

Pete Chamberlain reviewed such.

John MacDonald questioned which departments are over expended in legal.

Pete Chamberlain replied the BOS.

Dave Owen distributed a summary of legal expenditures.

Jim Eisenhower questioned whether the legal line item would be separated by departments.

Dave Owen replied yes.

Scott Smith stated the BOS legal line item has expended \$70,000.

Pete Chamberlain stated such is over expended by \$16,000; noting other departments are under expended in total by approximately the same amount.

John MacDonald expressed concern regarding the Historic District Commission's legal budget.

Jim Eisenhower questioned whether the Ginter case is still active.

Dave Owen replied yes.

John Burt questioned the status of the Brown Trust.

Dave Owen stated the former trustee paid himself legal fees which exhausted the trust; noting the BOS have petitioned Probate Court to appoint new trustees and are awaiting receipt of accounting information necessary to pursue action to seek restitution of the funds. He stated the Town last received funds in 2006.

John MacDonald questioned whether the Wiggins case has been settled.

Dave Owen replied yes.

John MacDonald questioned how Town Counsel is paid.

Dave Owen replied on a flat fee basis.

Scott Smith questioned who Town Counsel is.

Dave Owen replied Mark Puffer.

Referencing the Budget Appropriation Report, page 60, Jim Eisenhower questioned the flow of principal - long term and debt services – interest.

Pete Chamberlain stated bond payments are paid semi-annually, August being the second payment.

Referencing the EDC budget, page 59, specifically Outside Services – Chamber of Commerce, Jim Eisenhower questioned what the money is allocated for.

Dave Owen replied staffing for the information booth and the printing costs related to the Chamber's brochure.

NEW BUSINESS II – COMMITTEE MEMBER ASSIGNMENTS UPDATE

Bob Moholland stated he met with Barry Muccio regarding the Electric budget; noting a decrease in the budget by 479,000. He stated the roof has been completed and the truck would be coming in 6-9 months. He stated the department is submitting 2 capital requests; electric meter reader truck (\$24,000), window replacement & other renovations (\$50,000).

Ned Giroux questioned the mileage on the meter reader truck.

Bob Moholland replied currently 74,000 however, Mr. Muccio expects the mileage to be 85,000 – 90,000 by the time it is replaced. He stated there has been a tremendous amount of problems with the vehicle.

Dave Owen stated the electric sales are down 8%; noting there would be no increase in the electric rate.

In regard to Parks & Recreation, Allan Bailey stated there are no major requests by the department.

Dave Owen noted the ice-time rates were increased 20% for the Parks & Recreation Department.

Ned Giroux stated he would be meeting with Stu Chase on 10/9/09 and questioned whether the Police Department received approval from the Police Commission for the COPSfast Program.

Dave Owen replied yes.

NEW BUSINESS III – BUDGET REVIEW SCHEDULE

Following discussion of the budget review schedule, the Committee requested Friday, November 13th be changed to Thursday, November 12th and Friday, November 20th be changed to Thursday, November 19th; location to be determined.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Dave Owen stated he received the auditor's report; noting a clear report. He stated the BOS increased the water and sewer rates 8% effective 10/1 (to be reflected in bills following 1/1/10). He stated the Town sold two tax title properties (held by the Town in excess of 3 years) for total revenue of \$35,600. He stated 5 properties were bid out however, the Town did not receive bids for 3 of the properties.

Jim Eisenhower questioned the strip of land on Forest Road.

Dave Owen stated the land would be conveyed to the abutters for \$1; noting the abutters are paying the costs associated with the public hearing and survey fees. In regard to the energy efficiency projects, he stated those projects (lighting at the Public Works Garage, Pop Whalen Arena, Public Safety Building, Library) are underway and almost complete. He stated the budget would reflect additional funding for further energy efficient projects however, believes the funding requests would be offset through federal funding / block grant. He stated he and Pete Chamberlain would be meeting with the DRA in the next month to set a new tax rate. He noted the Public Works Department had 3 bid openings today; North Line Road, Albee Beach restoration and the Pop Whalen parking lot.

John MacDonald questioned when the projects would be completed.

Dave Owen replied fall 2009.

John MacDonald questioned the status of the budget reviews.

Dave Owen stated during his recent absence, Rob Houseman and Pete Chamberlain completed such. He stated the BOS begin their review of the budgets next week.

OTHER BUSINESS

➤ CIP

John Burt expressed concern & frustration regarding the CIP process. He stated items are being placed in the CIP, such as sidewalks, that will never be done however, Linda Murray has requested those items be placed in the CIP regardless. He stated the Department of Public Works only submitted a 6 year plan; noting the Committee is not receiving what they request. He stated the CIP document has become a dream sheet; noting there is no reality to it.

It was moved by John Burt and seconded by Marge Webster to adjourn the October 8, 2009 Budget Committee meeting. All members voted in favor.

Budget Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2009 @ 5:30 PM, Wolfeboro Public Library.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley

*****Please note these minutes are subject to amendments and approval at a later date.***