

WOLFEBORO BUDGET COMMITTEE
Budget Review Meeting
November 29, 2010
Minutes

Members Present: John MacDonald, Chairman, Scott Smith, Vice-Chairman, Dave Senecal, Selectmen's Representative, Robert Moholland, Jim Eisenhower, Allan Bailey, Frank Giebutowski, Bob Tougher, Members.

Members Absent: Brian Black (excused), Harold Parker, Members.

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

Chairman MacDonald called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Referencing Clark Park Parking Lot Resurfacing, 49164.710 in the amount of \$19,305, John MacDonald stated such should be in a warrant article since it is related to ADA issues.

It was moved by John MacDonald and seconded by Jim Eisenhower to decrease Park Parking Lot Resurfacing, 49164.710 from \$19,305 to \$0. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

John MacDonald questioned the amount in the land conservation acquisition account.

Dan Coons replied approximately \$59,000.

Scott Smith questioned the amount received from Current Use Change Tax for the year.

Dan Coons replied \$16,000.

SANITATION

➤ **Sewage Collection Disposal**

Bob Moholland questioned the decrease in the department request for telephone, 43260.341.

Dave Ford stated the amount only includes the charge for dialing of the pump stations; noting the day to day calls are primarily water related therefore, he removed the expenditures related to such.

Bob Moholland questioned outside services, 43260.380; noting the funds have not been spent.

Dave Ford stated \$5,000 is associated with charges related to a utility contractor; noting there has not been a need to use the funds this year. He stated \$3,000 is related to unforeseen emergencies; noting the line item will be under spent this year.

Bob Moholland questioned building maintenance, 43260.435; noting such is under expended.

Dave Ford stating such reflects work to be done at the pump stations; noting a purchase order was just issued for such.

➤ **Wastewater Treatment**

Scott Smith stated the Committee reduced funding in the amount of \$20,000 for legal services in the Executive budget therefore; such needs to be included in the Wastewater Treatment budget.

Dave Ford stated he believes the money should be placed in the Executive budget because the project money was raised by general taxes. He stated the project was funded by tax dollars therefore the lawsuit should be funded by tax dollars. He stated the site is functioning however, not at capacity. He stated the Town needed a disposal capacity for 600,000 gallons/day (and is permitted for such by NH DES); noting the Town's actual use is 400,000. He stated the design was intended for future growth however, due to unexpected issues, future growth is not an option and as a backup the Town has sought a permit for the use of the spray irrigation site.

Pete Chamberlain stated there is no existing legal line item in the Wastewater Treatment budget however, he would add such.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Allan Bailey to increase the Executive budget, specifically Legal 41301.320 by \$20,000.

Discussion of the motion:

Allan Bailey questioned whether the Town would be able to recoup legal fees from the lawsuit.

Dave Ford stated the damages may not cover attorney fees.

Scott Smith expressed concern for the argument that legal fees get paid by general government; noting the legal fees should be appropriated through the Wastewater Treatment budget. He stated that if the BOS have a different philosophy in how to collect subsidy then that would become a different issue; noting he doesn't want to lose control of what the true subsidy is.

Dave Senecal stated it is a serious problem and needs to be funded regardless of which budget the funds come from.

Scott Smith stated he is prepared to fund the legal expenses; noting it is a philosophical issue.

Frank Giebutowski asked if the Town were awarded funds where those funds would go.

Dave Ford replied back to the General Fund. He stated after hearing Mr. Smith's argument, he agrees with him and retracts his statement.

Bob Tougher withdrew his motion.

Allan Bailey withdrew his second.

It was moved by Scott Smith and seconded by Jim Eisenhower to add legal services to the Wastewater Treatment budget (43263.320) and increase such from \$0 to \$20,000. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

John MacDonald questioned the increase in contract services 43263.392.

Dave Ford stated the contract with Woodard & Curran was up this year however, the BOS decided to contract with them for an additional two years at which time the Town would then take over operations. He stated the increase reflects an increase in manpower issues associated with operating a portion of the spray areas.

- **Technology**
No discussion or changes.

WATER DISTRIBUTION & TREATMENT

- **Distribution Services**
Frank Giebutowski questioned consultants 43320.311, specifically Radio Read Water Meter Study.

Dave Ford stated that currently users are billed quarterly; noting 1/3 of the meters is read each month. He stated the potential of reading both electric and water on a monthly basis; noting such would be funded 50% with the Electric Department with a potential warrant article in 2012 related to such.

- **Water Treatment Plant**
John MacDonald questioned year to date expenditure for supervisory salaries 43350.113.

Pete Chamberlain replied such is 85% expended.

- **Technology**
No discussion or changes.

CAPITAL OUTLAY

½ ton pickup, 49605.760; \$24,000

Dave Ford stated the vehicle would be for Scott Pike, Assistant Director, Public Works Department. He stated Mr. Pike uses his own vehicles however, does not receive mileage reimbursement.

John MacDonald questioned whether the truck would be left at the Treatment Plant each day.

Dave Ford replied yes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dave Owen distributed the telephone reduction budgets; noting the Town negotiated a new contract with the provider. He noted a 21% savings (\$4,416).

It was moved by Scott Smith and seconded by Allan Bailey to include the reductions to land line charges in all applicable department budgets. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

Referencing the proposed shim overlay for the Pop Whalen parking lot, John MacDonald asked Mr. Ford whether such could be held off for one year.

Dave Ford recommended not waiting more than one year.

Bob Moholland recommended a capital reserve account be set up from the rent money received to maintain Town owned buildings. He stated the rent money should go into a building maintenance fund rather than the General Fund.

Dave Owen stated revolving funds are limited to a specific purpose.

Scott Smith stated the funds for a capital reserve fund has to be appropriated in a warrant article.

Allan Bailey questioned the amount of rent money received.

Dave Owen replied not more than \$40,000. Based on the Bergeron reports, he stated a warrant article for \$150,000 yearly for building maintenance is being submitted.

Scott Smith stated the Budget Committee has no authority to create funds. He stated the need to clarify the Town receives \$40,000 in rentals. He stated he supports the improvements recommended by Bergeron and the BOS.

It was moved by Scott Smith and seconded by Allan Bailey to adjourn the November 29, 2010 Budget Committee meeting. All members voted in favor.

Budget Committee meeting scheduled for December 6, 2010 at the Wolfeboro Inn Ballroom @ 6:00 PM.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley

Lee Ann Keathley

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