

WOLFEBORO BUDGET COMMITTEE
Budget Review Meeting
January 6, 2011
Minutes

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

Staff Present: Dave Owen, Town Manager, Pete Chamberlain, Finance Director and Amelia Capone-Muccio, Secretary.

Chairman McDonald called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

Consideration of Minutes

➤ **December 6, 8 and 13, 2010**

Allan Bailey moved to accept the minutes of December 6, 8 and 13, 2010 as submitted. Jim Eisenhower seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

➤ **Firefighter's change in Salary and Benefits**

Mr. Owen updated the Board on the pending court case between the Board of Selectmen and the Firefighter's Union and provided a copy of the court's decision. He stated the town prevailed in this case and the court found the Firefighter's Union to be null and void and no longer to exist. He provided the Board with the new salary and benefits calculation to be applied to the Firefighter's bringing them in line with the rest of the employees. He noted the cost savings of this is \$22,431.

Mr. Black questioned if they have the right to appeal and how such would affect the budget.

Mr. Owen replied that conceivably they could appeal and the timing for that is unknown.

Mr. Eisenhower questioned the number of employees this affects and where in the budget is this funding.

Mr. Owen replied 9 employees and it will be in the operating budget.

Bob Tougher moved to reduce lines 1-42200-114, 1-42200-220, 1-42200-230, 1-42200-260, 1-42200-210, 1-42200-219 by \$22,431 as presented. Jim Eisenhower seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

➤ **Warrant Article P: Police Union Contract Agreement**

Chairman McDonald stated this Warrant Article is to see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the Local #39 of the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at current staffing levels: Year 2011 Salaries \$7,774, Benefits \$2,108 Total 2011 \$9,878 and to further raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,878 for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

Mr. Owen stated the Police Commission chose to negotiate a one year contract and this contract includes the following changes:

- Five cent per hour shift differential
- New longevity tier at \$150 for 5-9 years
- A lump sum payment of 1% of each officer's base salary wage

Allan Bailey moved to recommend Warrant Article P: Police Union Contract Agreement as presented. Harold Parker seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Eisenhower questioned how this compares to other pay grades.

Mr. Owen replied the Board of Selectmen granted the non-union employees a 1% increase, but the Police Commission agreed not to add the 1% to the base salary.

Being none opposed, the motion passed.

➤ **Warrant Article Q: AFSCME Contract Agreement**

Chairman McDonald stated this Warrant Article is to see if the town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the Local #534 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels: 2011; Salaries \$1,200, Benefits \$ 8,359 Total \$9,559 and 2012; Salaries \$ 12, 400, Benefits \$12,008 Total \$24,408 and to further raise and appropriate \$9,559 for the upcoming fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

Mr. Owen stated this Union consists of 32-35 employees and the changes made were as follows:

- New longevity tier at \$150 for 5-9 years
- Each employee will receive a \$350 stipend added to their base wage on January 1, 2012
- All employees will switch to the same dental contribution as the non-union employees

Mr. Smith questioned a cost of living increase in 2011.

Mr. Owen replied the previous contract negotiated a step increase for this year.

Mr. Black questioned if the voters could find out what positions this covers in the town report.

Mr. Owen replied it is not in the town report, but that is something they could point out at the Deliberative Session.

Bob Tougher moved to recommend Warrant Article Q: AFSCME Contract Agreement as presented. Scott Smith seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Chairman McDonald questioned why the supervisors were given a 1% increase and not a stipend.

Mr. Owen replied they do not bargain with the non-union employees and such is what the Board of Selectmen chose to give them.

➤ **Budget Review**

Chairman McDonald questioned the current percentage increase in the budget.

Mr. Chamberlin replied it was 3.1% before the amendment for the Firefighter salaries and benefits and is now 3.01%.

Chairman McDonald questioned the increase when they received the budget from the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Chamberlin replied 3.4%.

Mr. Eisenhower questioned how much of that is for salaries.

Mr. Chamberlin replied \$100,000 is the total increase in the salaries. He noted \$485,000 is the sewer transfer.

Mr. Smith pointed out \$95,000 is the general fund debt service.

Chairman McDonald suggested including a slide in the presentation showing where the budget has increased and the Board agreed.

➤ **1-49166.710 & 5-49101-710**

John McDonald moved to reduce line 1-49166-710 Pop Whalen parking lot resurfacing to zero. Harold Parker seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Eisenhower stated that he recalled an alternative presented at \$10,400 to make repairs just to the entrance road.

Ethan Hipple, Director of Parks and Recreation, replied that \$10,400 would repair the entrance road back to where the Zamboni comes out to the parking lot.

Mr. Smith questioned if that included and improvements to the culvert.

Mr. Hipple replied it does not, but the Warrant Article for the fire protection system will require some improvements and this work would be scheduled accordingly.

Mr. Eisenhower noted he would like to see the improvements to the road because it is in very poor shape.

John McDonald withdrew the motion.

Jim Eisenhower moved to reduce line 1-49166-710 Pop Whalen parking lot resurfacing to \$10,400 to only make improvements to the road from the entrance to the where the zamboni comes out to the parking lot. Robert Moholland seconded.

Mr. Smith clarified that this funding is split between the general fund and the Pop Whalen enterprise fund.

Jim Eisenhower amended the motion to reduce line 1-49166-710 Pop Whalen parking lot resurfacing to \$5,200. Robert Moholland seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Scott Smith moved to reduce line 5-49101-710 to \$5,200. Jim Eisenhower seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

➤ 1-43240-440

Mr. Giebutowski questioned the use of a vehicle in line 1-43240-440 for the Solid Waste Department.

John MacDonald moved to reduce line 1-432400440 rentals and leases by \$5,500. Robert Moholland seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman McDonald stated he does not see the need to lease a vehicle unless you plan to put more than 12,000 miles per year on it, he noted he understands that the plan is to share this vehicle with other departments, but most of the work done by the Solid Waste Department is done at the facility.

Mr. Bailey questioned the usage for this vehicle.

Mr. Owen replied the supervisor attends meetings in Concord once sometimes twice a month and they do reimburse him for mileage.

Mr. Giebutowski referred to Dave Ford's memo provided stating that he anticipates putting 6,000 miles per year on this vehicle and that the supervisor of the solid waste department does also assist him with the buildings and grounds. He noted that employees are not reimbursed for in-town mileage.

Mr. Chamberlin also pointed out that he picks up the recycling for the town each week as well.

Mr. Tougher stated he thinks it would be a mistake to remove this vehicle and that Mr. Ford has outlined a clear need for the vehicle.

Mr. Smith stated he believes the issue is the function of this vehicle, noting it would not be functional to pick up the recycling in this vehicle and that he also finds it unusual that employees are not reimbursed for using their own vehicle for town businesses.

Mr. Bailey questioned if the issue is the vehicle or the funding for the vehicle.

Mr. Smith replied it is the purpose of the vehicle, leasing for \$5,500 a year for once or twice a month meeting is not an effective function.

Mr. Giebutowski read Mr. Ford's memo outlining the use of the vehicle. (See attached memo) He also stated that a total cost should be provided when purchasing vehicles, such as increase to the insurance and past expenses in order to make the request complete.

Mr. Eisenhower suggested alternative ideas such as purchasing a vehicle outright, since it will not be a high mileage vehicle or to purchase a used vehicle.

Members voted: Allan Bailey and Bob Tougher opposed. All others in favor, the motion passed.

Chairman McDonald questioned the Chief of Police increase.

Chief Chase replied the Police Commission agreed that he and the Lieutenant would receive a 1% stipend not applied to their base salary.

Chairman McDonald questioned the budget increase with the reductions made above.

Mr. Chamberlin replied 2.9% (\$724,693).

Chairman McDonald questioned if the Warrant Articles will be ready for their January 11, 2011 meeting.

Mr. Owen replied they would since the Board of Selectmen finalized the order at last night's meeting, but the Radio Communications Improvements Phase-I, Install Fire Protection System at Pop Whalen Arena and Interim Town Offices will be addressed by the Board of Selectmen at a meeting on January 13, 2011 at 5 PM and will be ready for the Budget Committee's meeting to follow.

Being no further business, Chairman McDonald entertained a motion to adjourn.

Harold Parker moved the Budget committee adjourn at 7:11 PM and it was seconded by Scott Smith. Being all in favor, the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio
Amelia Capone-Muccio

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