

WOLFEBORO BUDGET COMMITTEE

January 12, 2012

Minutes

Members Present: John MacDonald, Chairman, Stan Stevens, Vice-Chairman, Dave Senecal, Selectmen's Representative, Robert Moholland, Brian Black, John Burt, Allan Bailey, Frank Giebutowski, Bob Tougher, Members.

Member Absent: Harold Parker, Member.

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

Chairman MacDonald called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM at the Wolfeboro Inn Ballroom.

2012 OPERATING BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

John MacDonald reviewed the proposed Town of Wolfeboro 2012 Operating Budget, see attached.

Chairman MacDonald opened the public hearing.

Referencing the Fire/Rescue budget, Don Faul questioned the increase in \$60,000.

Pete Chamberlain replied \$11,401 increase in total wages, \$24,789 in health and \$26,982 in retirement.

Don Faul questioned the percentage increase in salary.

Dave Owen replied 1% salary adjustment to all employees.

John Sandeen requested the Committee reconsider the salary and benefit increase to library employees; noting the reconsideration would include a total increase of \$1,025 to reflect a 1% increase for 9 employees in salary and wages, see attached statement.

John MacDonald questioned the total figure for such if the request is approved by the Committee.

John Sandeen replied \$228,236.

John MacDonald verified the request does not include merit pay.

John Burt questioned whether all nonunion employees received a 1% increase.

Dave Owen replied yes.

Frank Giebutowski noted such would require an increase to the benefits line item.

It was moved by John MacDonald and seconded by Allan Bailey to increase library salaries to \$228,236. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

Suzanne Ryan questioned whether all nonunion employees would receive a 1% increase including a step increase.

Dave Owen replied nonunion employees would not receive a step increase.

Don Faul questioned the raise for union employees.

Dave Owen stated all union employees, effective 1/1/12, will receive a \$350 increase and those employees eligible for a 3% step increase would receive such.

Pete Chamberlain stated the step increase is effective on the employee's anniversary date.

Don Faul expressed concern at the trend for nonunion employees to receive less of an increase.

Dave Owen stated it is not a trend rather; the legislature rescinded the Evergreen Law about 1-1 ½ years ago; noting that when the AFSCME contract was negotiated the law was still in effect.

Sarah Silk stated the contract is up next year.

Don Faul stated nonunion positions can be unionized.

Referencing the Community Center, Suzanne Ryan stated there was money allotted for mold remediation and questioned the status of the project.

Dave Owen stated the funds have been encumbered.

Ethan Hipple stated the funds were encumbered in December 2011 and the project is currently being done.

Don Faul questioned the decrease in personnel from 5 to 4 in the water department with an increase in salary.

Dave Ford stated such is related to administrative allocation changes; reallocation of salary and benefits between the sewer and water department budgets. He stated the water department had a five man crew with their salary split 75% and 25% between the two departments. He stated in order to simplify the accounting process; the department has now dedicated one employee to the sewer department and four employees to the water department.

Scott Ducharme questioned why two departments (Highway & Streets and Garage) have costs for diesel and gas.

Dave Ford stated the Garage bulk purchases the gas and diesel and as both are used, the costs are allocated out to other departments; noting an offset in the Garage department's revenue.

Scott Ducharme questioned \$2,000 for consulting in the Highway and Streets budget.

Dave Ford the line item was reduced from \$10,000 to \$8,000; noting the costs are associated with any necessary wetland permits.

Suzanne Ryan questioned the legal line item in sewer for \$20,000; noting such is a new line item.

Dave Owen stated such was in last year's budget and the money was appropriated in 2011.

Suzanne Ryan questioned whether the amount was increased.

Dave Owen stated it is the same amount.

Suzanne Ryan questioned the capital expenditure of \$13,200 for first year costs associated with the parking lot at Abenaki.

Ethan Hipple stated the phased project includes repaving the Pop Whalen and Abenaki parking lot; noting a 50/50 split between the Pop Whalen Enterprise Fund and the General Fund.

Referencing the Abenaki Building Study, Suzanne Ryan questioned why the funds have not been spent. She questioned the cost of the steel building proposed for 2013.

Ethan Hipple the funds associated with the site plan for Pop Whalen and Abenaki have been spent.

Suzanne Ryan questioned whether the request to repave the Fire Department Substation in the amount of \$52,000 was approved.

Dave Owen replied yes, however the amount was decreased to \$12,000 to address drainage issues and gravel the parking lot.

Suzanne Ryan questioned the type of vehicle housed at the substation and asked whether it is a forestry fire truck.

Dave Owen stated the vehicle is an engine/pumper.

Suzanne Ryan questioned whether the vehicle is used.

Linda Murray stated it is a functioning vehicle that responds to calls at that end of Town.

WARRANT ARTICLES

Article I: Construct Bath House at Albee Beach; \$125,000

Dave Owen stated the language of the article was revised by the BOS at the request of the Budget Committee (to remove "Region 9 Vocational Technical Education Center") and requested the Committee reconsider the article.

John MacDonald read Warrant Article I, see attached.

It was moved by Stan Stevens and seconded by Allan Bailey to reconsider Article I: Construct Bath House at Albee Beach. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

It was moved by Allan Bailey and seconded by Bob Tougher to recommend Article I: Construct Bath House at Albee Beach. All members voted in favor. The motion passed (8-0).

Article D: Downtown Streets Upgrade – Phase 3; \$750,000

John MacDonald read Article D.

Dave Ford reviewed his memo, dated 1/11/12, see attached.

Frank Giebutowski questioned whether Article K, Upgrade Town Roads is now reduced.

Dave Ford replied no.

John Burt stated the actual cost of the project is \$853,000; noting \$103,000 is from current funding and \$750,000 is to be bonded.

Dave Ford stated when the budget was originally submitted six months ago, the \$103,000 was included.

John MacDonald verified that all the roads listed relative to Article K will get done.

Brian Black noted a conflict if Article K is not approved.

Suzanne Ryan stated the public should be shown the actual cost of the project.

Frank Giebutowski stated \$750,000 was the engineer's estimate and it wasn't expected that the costs would come in higher therefore, questioned whether the warrant article should be changed.

Dave Owen stated the BOS voted on the article as written last night.

Jerome Holden stated the project is a 3-phased project therefore; \$853,000 is not the total cost of the project.

Dave Ford reviewed the costs associated with the project in total.

Suzanne Ryan stated the general perception of Warrant Article K is that it would be diversified outside of town projects; noting the article should be for rural roads.

Dave Ford stated the 2012 road schedule consists of doing an overlay to the roads paved in 2011, reclaim and grade Libby Street, reclaim, drainage and base pave 5,000' of Cotton Valley Road, sand and seal Stoddard Road and North Wolfeboro Road and improvements to Lang Pond Road (Town of Tuftonboro would pay for their portion). He noted a contingency of \$50,000 due to potential increase in asphalt.

Brian Black stated he does not see an advantage of having two warrant articles that are dependent upon one of the articles passing.

Suzanne Ryan stated she is not opposed to the project rather, the mechanism of funding of the project.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Allan Bailey to recommend Article D: Downtown Streets Upgrade, as written.

Discussion of the motion:

Bob Tougher stated the warrant article could be amended at the Deliberative Session. He stated he feels both articles are worded properly and should be remain as written.

It was moved by Bob Tougher and seconded by Allan Bailey to recommend Article D: Downtown Streets Upgrade, as written. All members voted in favor. The motion passed (8-0).

Article E: Construct Glendon Street Parking Lot; \$300,000

John MacDonald read Article E.

Dave Ford reviewed his memo, dated 1/1/12, see attached.

John MacDonald questioned the total number of parking spaces.

Dave Owen replied 108.

Jerome Holden asked which foundation needs to be removed.

Dave Ford stated two foundations on the property need to be removed.

John MacDonald questioned the schedule of the project.

Dave Ford stated the project would be completed by fall 2013.

John MacDonald questioned whether the project could be put off until next year.

Dave Ford replied no, the work will partially be done during the Downtown Streets Upgrade project is being done; noting a cost savings for the project.

Dave Owen stated the project would then have to be rebid.

Linda Murray questioned whether Glendon Street would remain open.

Dave Ford replied at times.

Brian Black asked if a design for busses, extended vehicles or boat trailers has been considered.

Dave Ford stated there is additional land on the back portion of the property available for boat trailers (20 spaces).

Tammy Ducharme stated that she thought the foundation had already been removed.

Dave Ford stated the foundations were taken down 2 feet below grade; noting that due to the lack of funding the foundations were not fully removed.

Tammy Ducharme questioned where the material would be hauled to.

Dave Ford stated such is up to the means and method of the contractor.

Scott Ducharme stated the removal of the foundations were put out to bid and Evans Brothers got the bid to remove the building, concrete foundations and fill/level off areas. He stated he bid on the project and reviewed the costs associated with hauling the material to the landfill. He stated the material was hauled off illegally and questioned why the Town is paying to have it done again.

John MacDonald verified the money in the warrant article is allocated for the removal of the foundations and the material to be hauled off and disposed of legally. He recommended Mr. Ducharme meet with the BOS and/or Town Manager to discuss the issue further.

Amy Piper, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, requested the Committee recommend Article E; noting the Chamber of Commerce supports the construction of the parking lot.

It was moved by John Burt and seconded by Stan Stevens to recommend Article E: Construct Glendon Street Parking Lot. All members voted in favor. The motion passed (8-0).

Citizens Petition Warrant Article ~ Interim Town Office Space

John MacDonald read the following Petition Warrant Article; *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) and direct the Board of Selectmen to enter into a one year lease, with the option to renew, for space to temporarily relocate town personnel whose offices are now located in Brewster Memorial Hall thereby avoiding an uneconomical investment in an inefficient, aged, and neglected building. Said sum would also cover associated costs such as fitting out space, moving files, equipment, and personnel to such an alternate site(s). Rental costs for any ensuing years, as needed, shall be paid out of the Town operating budget.*

Suzanne Ryan stated the article provides an alternative to the BOS warrant articles and feels it is a fallback position similar to last year.

John MacDonald questioned how the figure \$70,000 was arrived at.

Jerome Holden stated such was based on last year's rental agreement lease with the hospital; noting it is more economical to rent a space than to spend \$7 million to renovate the Town Hall.

John Burt questioned whether the \$70,000 would cover all the employees.

Suzanne Ryan stated the figure covers the move and rental space for the employees.

Brian Black questioned what would be proposed for the Town Hall building.

Jerome Holden stated such would be left up to the public.

Suzanne Ryan stated the article is in anticipation of something happening with the Town Hall. She stated it is not safe to be in the building.

Frank Giebutowski questioned whether the article would require the BOS to enter into a lease.

Dave Owen replied no, noting the legislative body cannot direct the BOS.

Tammy Ducharme stated then why have people here to have an opinion if the opinion of the BOS is the only opinion that counts.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sarah Silk verified the Committee agreed to recommend Article E in the amount of \$280,000. She stated Article F Water Meter Upgrades was revised to reflect the grant amount of \$175,000.

Stan Stevens stated "no tax impact" was also added to the language of Article F.

It was moved by Frank Giebutowski and seconded by John Burt to recommend Article F: Water Meter Upgrades as revised. Brian Black, Stan Stevens, John MacDonald, Allan Bailey, Bob Moholland, Bob Tougher voted in favor. John Burt, Frank Giebutowski opposed. The motion passed (6-2).

It was moved by Brian Black and seconded by Allan Bailey to adjourn the January 12, 2012 Budget Committee meeting. All members voted in favor.

Budget Committee meeting scheduled for January 13, 2012 at the Wolfboro Inn Ballroom @ 7:00 PM.
Deliberative Session scheduled for February 7, 2012 at the Kingswood Arts Center @ 7 PM.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee Ann Keathley
Lee Ann Keathley

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