

WOLFEBORO BUDGET COMMITTEE

September 25, 2012

Minutes

Members Present: John MacDonald, Chairman, Stan Stevens, Vice-Chairman, Dave Senecal, Selectmen's Representative, Robert Moholland, Harold Parker, Brian Black, John Burt, Matt Krause, Bob Tougher, Members.

Member Absent: Frank Giebutowski, Member (excused).

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

Chairman MacDonald opened the public hearing at 6:03 PM at the Wolfeboro Public Library.

New Business I ~ Review current status of 2012 Budget & Expenditure Reports

Pete Chamberlain stated the budget should be at 66.4% expended and it is currently 65.9% expended. He stated the audit has been put out to bid and four qualified bids were received; noting references are currently being checked.

Dave Owen stated the assessing service was also put out to bid and 6 proposals were received. He stated interviews are scheduled for next week.

Pete Chamberlain stated four water bonds were refinanced with a net savings just under \$300,000. He stated revenues are on track however, recycling revenues have decreased over the past month.

Bob Tougher questioned the increase in the Police Department's overtime budget.

Dave Owen stated such is related to special dignitary details.

John Burt asked if the funds could be reimbursed.

Dave Owen replied no.

Brian Black recommended a separate accounting of such.

John MacDonald verified the position in the Town Clerk's office has been filled and asked if the buyout was large.

Pete Chamberlain replied no.

John MacDonald asked when the BOS would be reviewing the budgets.

Dave Owen replied next week; noting he is finalizing his review this week. He stated the BOS will adopt the budget on 1/7/12; noting the budgets would then be forwarded to the Budget Committee.

New Business II ~ Subcommittee Reports

➤ **Health Insurance Review Committee Update**

Bob Tougher reviewed the Health Insurance Review Committee's findings and decision, see attached.

➤ **CIP Committee**

Bob Tougher updated the Committee with regard to the status of the CIP requests; see attached and noted the CIP Committee requested Ethan Hipple to decrease the amount of the Parks Maintenance Building to \$200,000. He stated the public restrooms and Christian Ridge Road upgrade and Pump Station upgrades were removed; noting the latter was placed in the Capital Outlay budget. He stated the annual road maintenance was reduced to \$600,000. He stated the CIP Committee took a field trip to the Public Works Garage and recommended the members of the Budget Committee visit Town facilities.

John Burt questioned the basis for the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve (\$175,000).

Dave Owen stated the Fire Department requests \$200,000 annually and he reduced the amount to \$175,000.

John Burt stated \$175,000 is not enough money and feels the decrease of such is short sighted. He stated he feels the Public Works Capital Reserve is underfunded considering it covers the Solid Waste Facility and Highway Department.

John MacDonald questioned the status of the meter reader program.

Dave Owen stated the build specs are in process and Dave Ford believes it will only take one year to implement the program.

John Burt stated he feels the sewer department should pay for the program as well because the silcock meters measure sewer consumption; noting the water department is subsidizing sewer department.

Harold Parker asked why the Town is looking at the two Lehner Street properties.

Dave Owen stated there is no specific plan for use other than razing the buildings and banking the land. He stated the Parks and Recreation Department wants to expand its Foss Field holdings such as install public restrooms and expand the parking lot. He stated there has not been a decision relative to use.

John MacDonald verified the parcels about Town property and asked if an appraisal would be done.

Dave Owen stated the Town is proposing an appraisal by the landowner; noting a list of appraisers was provided to the landowner.

Referencing the Town Hall Upgrades, Harold Parker questioned the location of the improvements.

Dave Owen replied some improvements are proposed for both the front and rear portion of the Town Hall in addition to the parking lot (the latter per the ADA compliance settlement agreement with the NH Department of Justice).

John MacDonald requested a balance of the Parks and Recreation revolving fund.

Bob Tougher noted Underwood Engineering produced a report on I&I and have provided numerous recommendations relative to such.

New Business III ~ Budget Review Meeting Dates

The Committee reviewed such and requested Staff forward such to Department Heads with no changes to the schedule.

Town Manager Report

Dave Owen stated the Town received new contribution rates from the NH Retirement System; noting the rates will increase to 9% effective 7/1/13 with a total impact of approximately \$80,000. He stated the current rate for Group 1 will increase by 2% and Group 2 (Police and Fire) will increase approximately 4%.

Bob Moholland questioned the difference in increases.

Dave Owen stated Group 2 is exempt from social security therefore; they are totally dependent upon the retirement program.

John MacDonald asked if the employee contribution rate will increase.

Dave Owen replied no.

John MacDonald questioned the status of contract negotiations.

Dave Owen stated a meeting with AFSCME is scheduled for 9/26/12 and a meeting with Police and Fire is scheduled for next week. He reviewed changes to the Town's health insurance providers (see attached) and noted a cost savings of \$182,829 (change from Local Government Center Blue Cross Blue Shield to School Care).

John MacDonald asked if there would be changes to the opt out option.

Dave Owen replied no.

Stan Stevens asked how the change would affect retirees like himself.

Dave Owen stated similar but less costly coverage would be provided; noting the Town would work with the retirees regarding such.

Brian Black asked if the reimbursement fund is based on payroll.

Dave Owen replied no, such is pretax dollars and any money that is not expended goes back to the Town.

Bob Tougher noted the FSA covers optical and dental unlike the HRA covers medical only.

It was moved by Brian Black and seconded by Robert Moholland to adjourn the September 25, 2012 Budget Committee meeting. All members voted in favor.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley

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