

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2006, 12:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Brian Watterson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m., also present were Selectman Reginald Caldwell, Selectman Ronald Cormier, Jr., Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Parks & Recreation Director Janet Breton, Police Chief Vincent Baiocchetti, and Ray Carbone with the Daily Sun.

Budget Work Session

Parks & Recreation

Parks & Recreation Director Janet Breton was present to review her proposed 2007 budget with the Board of Selectmen. She explained the summer program for this year and how she wants to expand it for next year but has run into some road blocks in terms of dealing with the school for space needs. There was discussion of holding additional weeks of camp at other locations, but the easiest and best suited location is the school. Town Administrator Beaudin commented that the offer has been made for the Town to pay the expenses related to using the space during that time but that doesn't seem to be the problem, the staff doesn't feel it leaves enough time to finish getting ready for school. It was discussed that the program only uses two rooms and the gym, which works out great. Selectman Caldwell commented that he didn't understand why there would be a problem getting that area of the school ready in two weeks. Chairman Watterson suggested that the Board could talk with the school regarding additional usage.

Police Department

Chief Baiocchetti was present to review his proposed 2007 budget with the Board. Chief Baiocchetti reviewed calls for service and other statistical data with the Board. There was discussion regarding the number of hours that are required per incident to process the complaint. Selectman Caldwell commented that he believes people don't understand the extent of the day to day work and how much time it consumes.

Chief Baiocchetti pointed out the number of volunteer hours that the department employees contribute. They include but are not limited to NHIS races, Explorer program, Old Home Day, Timberman Triathlon, and although some reimbursement is received for some of the programs there are many donated hours. Selectman Cormier noted that the Board had

recently been advised that other communities receive a pick up fee from the Humane Society when an animal is picked up there by its owner; Chief Baiocchetti commented that it is not in Belmont's contract to receive such a fee.

Fire Department

Chief Siegel and Deputy Davis joined the meeting to review the Fire Departments proposed 2007 budget. Chief Siegel noted that the budget is up 4.2%. He noted that calls are up 9% with 70% of those calls being medical related. The proposed budget is a combination of the Winnisquam and Belmont Fire departments, most increases in the budget are directly related to combining the two departments. Selectman Cormier inquired which communities will be participating with the Winnisquam station next year, it was noted that Sanbornton will participate and Tilton-Northfield will not be participating.

There was a brief discussion of formulating a funding source, perhaps from inspections for oil burners and other required inspections. Chief Siegel noted that most other communities have some sort of fee at for oil burner inspections. Selectman Cormier asked for the balance of the ambulance revenue fund, Town Administrator Beaudin noted that it will be approximately \$400,000 by the end of the year with \$60-65,000 from Winnisquam this week.

There was discussion regarding the two capital requests for the department, the first for an automated defibrillator for \$20,000 to be paid for out of the ambulance revenue fund and the second request for \$30,000 to repaint engine 2 also from the ambulance revenue fund. Chief Siegel noted that there has been much discussion with Pierce regarding the paint problem on the engine which Pierce has repainted once already, but he isn't getting any where with them. There was discussion of regarding not taking too much from the ambulance revenue fund and Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the funds for repainting the engine could be put into the equipment repair line item of the budget if the Board preferred.

Civil Defense/Emergency Management

Chief Siegel noted that there are no changes to this budget item.

Land Use

Town Planner Candace Daigle joined the meeting to review the department's proposed budget. She noted that the budget is up 4.1%, primarily wage increases.

Conservation Commission

Candace noted that this budget is up 1.95%, with all items, except wages, remaining the same as last years request. Chairman Watterson noted that the Conservation Committee had removed its request for funding through Capital; Candace noted that the committee saw that the Town had significant needs that they are trying to address this year and felt that they would remove their request for this year so that those funds could be directed elsewhere if needed.

Chairman Watterson noted that during a recent heavy rain that there was significant pooling of water on Concord Street, Candace advised that they are still waiting for the owner to sign the easement papers in order to do that project. There was brief discussion regarding the sidewalk projects and Candace noted that the Church Street project has been funded but

needs another Public Hearing due to changes that were made to the plans, which will take place as soon as time allows.

Building Inspection

Town Administrator Beaudin addressed the Board regarding the Building Inspection proposed budget as Gary Boisvert is away at a conference. She noted for the Board that this budget is up slightly due to the wage increase and the new hire for Code Enforcement Field Inspector. She noted that the new hire is projected to work 10-15 hours per week and is being budgeted at the maximum of 15 hours. Other increased associated costs in the budget are fuel expense and office supplies. Selectman Cormier inquired how a vehicle for the new person is going to be handled; Town Administrator Beaudin advised that between the Building Inspectors vehicle and the Land Use vehicle they are hoping to work vehicle coverage out. There was then discussion of reserving one of the old cruisers being rotated out of use next for the Code Enforcement Field Inspector.

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the off setting revenue is currently \$33,000.

Town Clerk Functions

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that this budget has seen an increase of 6.2% due to wages, an increase in postage and phones and for training. She noted Carol has budget additional training funds in order to continue to send Cynthia Pike to Town Clerk training, this year she received a scholarship but next year the Town Clerk's office will need to fund it.

Elections

Town Administrator Beaudin noted the changes in this budget item are due to there being fewer elections in 2007.

Water Department

David McLelland joined the meeting to discuss the Water department budget request for 2007. He noted the increase in phone costs is due to an added line that monitors the alarm system and also noted that electricity has gone down. David explained that well 2 is in the process of being cleaned and should be back on line shortly. Selectman Cormier inquired what the revenues for the department are, Town Administrator Beaudin indicated that through the first two billings \$78,700 has been billed and the projection for the year is approximately \$160,000. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the budget includes \$25,000 for development of well 3, with Capital Improvements Plan matching with and additional \$25,000.

Selectman Cormier noted that the revenues versus the requested budget amount looks like it will end up a \$30,000 deficit when it was felt that the rate adjustment would cover the department's budget. Town Administrator Beaudin added that there will most likely be a fund balance from 2006. There was discussion regarding meter replacement and David explained that he is approximately 85% complete with the majority of the remaining meters in Pleasant Valley and hopes to replace those meters when the water/drainage project is done there.

Discussion followed regarding Capital requests of \$10,000 for water system repair and maintenance to be funded from water user fees and \$25,000 for the development of well 3 to be funded from taxation. A brief discussion followed as to whether the development of well 3 should be funded through taxation or another form of funding.

Public Works Administration

Public Works Director Bob Bennett joined the meeting and explained the department's proposed budget. He noted that this budget is up 7% due to wages and an increase in phone usage from pager and cellular service. He noted he has quite a bit of oil on hand for use in the oil burning furnace.

Highways & Streets

Bob indicated that the salary increases are the 4% as per the union contract. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that this budget is down 3.11% due to the savings on sand and gravel which the Town will now get from their own gravel pit. It was noted that the equipment hire line was able to be reduced due to the excavator purchase.

There was discussion regarding putting a single yellow stripe down all of the paved roads in Town. The Board of Selectmen recommended changing the Public Works road striping budget to \$15,000 to cover this additional striping.

Health Agencies

Community Health & Hospice

Chris of Community Health and Hospice was present and reviewed statistical data and their request with the Board. The Board thanked her for coming and complimented Community Health and Hospice for the excellent work that they do.

Community Action Program

Bob Adams was present and reviewed the Community Action Programs request for funding for 2007. He noted that it is a level fund request from 2006 funding. The Board thanked him for coming.

Lakes Region Family Services

Walker Brown was present to discuss the request from Lakes Region Family Services for 2007 funding. He reviewed statistical data regarding the program and the benefits to the community. The Board thanked him for coming.

New Beginnings

Kathy Teller was present for New Beginnings to present their request for funding for 2007. Kathy also reviewed statistical data for their program and outlined the benefits. The Board thanked him for coming.

American Red Cross

Becky Field was present to discuss the American Red Cross funding request for 2007. She noted that the Concord and White Mountain chapters had been merged and they had recently opened a branch office at the Belknap Mall in Belmont. She explained that they respond in all types of emergencies and also provide health related training. They receive no federal funding. The Board thanked him for coming.

Genesis

Mike Coughlin was in attendance to review Genesis request for funding for 2007. He reviewed statistical data for the community and noted that their request is level from last year. The Board thanked him for coming.

Youth Service Bureau

No one from Youth Service Bureau attended the meeting. The Board briefly discussed their request. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that additional information had been requested from them and there has been no response.

Library

David Morse joined the meeting to discuss the Library budget request for 2007. He noted that the Library fund looks like it has a larger increase than there really is due to the adjustment for excess funds in last year's budget.

There was brief discussion regarding the capital requests for \$2,500 for improvements and \$75,000 for the Library Building Funds. The Board asked that he come back at a future meeting to discuss these requests.

General Assistance

General Assistance Director Donna Cilley joined the meeting to review her Department's budget request for 2007. She noted the most significant change is for a one time part time hiring to do data entry for a new program she will be initiating. She emphasized the demand for services are not letting up and she anticipates they will continue to be steady through the winter months. She noted some changes that are taking place at the State level that should help her regulate some of the services that she provides.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Brian Watterson, Chairman

Ronald Cormier

Reginald Caldwell