

Selectmen's Budget Work Session Minutes

November 14, 2006, 5:30 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Watterson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., also present were, Selectman Reginald Caldwell, Selectman Ronald Cormier, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, and Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace.

Budget Work Session

Property Taxation

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that the 2007 pick up's will be handled between the contract assessor currently working with the Town on the measure and list project and Cary Lagace through her new capacity within the Assessing Office, removing the need to hire a part-time measure list person to do pick ups. The request is to reduce line item 4152-140 to \$0.

Selectman Cormier moved to amend line item 4152-140 to \$0. Selectman Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Highway Administration

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that due to additional NH Occupational testing that is required, line item 4311-390 will need to be increased to \$1,600. The increase will be for 2007 only.

Selectman Caldwell moved to amend line item 4311-390 to \$1,600. Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Capital Reserve - Assessing

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that during the sales analysis update that was being done for 2006 by the contract assessor Commerford, Neider and Perkins (CNP)

discovered inconsistencies within the depreciation tables, causing significant inaccuracies when new assessments were applied using information gathered during the sales analysis. After thorough discussion and analysis of the information; between CNP, the Department of Revenue and Town Administrator Beaudin it was determined that in the best interest of everyone the assessments would not be adjusted for 2006 and that CNP would finish the last portion of the measure list project which was scheduled to be complete in 2009, in 2007 and provide a complete revaluation in 2007. The Capital Reserve account has been adjusted to reflect these changes. Town Administrator Beaudin explained that this process will end up costing less than the typical full revaluation.

Selectman Caldwell moved to amend line item 4915-300 to \$83,850. Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Capital Reserve – Information Technology

Town Administrator Beaudin asked Selectman Cormier if he had reviewed the information she had provided to him regarding the Information Technology program. He indicated that he hadn't had a chance to review the information yet but is planning to do so. He feels it is important to get another opinion regarding the cost and necessity of the equipment replacement program. Town Administrator Beaudin explained that \$10,000 of the request is for BMSI service contract and only \$48,000 of the request is for the technology program, a portion of which is service contract and another portion is the hardware. She emphasized the consistency of hardware throughout all Town departments as well as the consistency of service when needed. The Board of Selectmen agreed to move forward with the proposed budget and if upon further review Selectman Cormier wishes to readdress this budget they will do so at that time.

Selectman Caldwell moved to approve line item 4915-601 \$58,000 as proposed. Selectman Cormier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Road Management Program

Town Administrator Beaudin advised the Board of Selectmen the following their last meeting, which included the Road Management presentation by Keith Pratt of Underwood Engineers, she looked at Capital requests to determine if there were any items that could wait for funding until next year and determined that there is really not a lot that could be put off. The Board discussed funding the program but was not comfortable with adding almost \$400,000 to the budget for the first year and then future would require even more funding.

The Board reviewed the cost of the program and what was being proposed as year one projects. They discussed that Cotton Hill Road is being proposed to be rebuild and they aren't sure that the Town is ready for that project and perhaps waiting on funding for that project would be a good idea. They discussed that the residents on that road each time construction is proposed have serious reservations regarding the work, they like the scenic road feel. They felt further discussion regarding engineering the project will be needed as well as discussion with the residents regarding the project.

After their discussion the Board of Selectmen agreed to leave the highway and road related budgets as they are proposed at this time which will cover the preventative maintenance items that are being recommended. If the Budget Committee wishes to add funding to the Budget for the program they will reconsider.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Brian Watterson, Chairman

Ronald Cormier

Reginald Caldwell