

## Municipal Budget Committee

### Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2008, 6:30 P.M.

### Corner Meeting House

Chairman Ron Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Committee members present were Norma Patten, Tonyel Mitchell-Berry, Fred Wells, David Morse, Ken Ellis, Linda Frawley, Albert Akerstrom, Mark Roberts, Ken Ellis, Ken Knowlton and Selectman Ron Cormier. Others in attendance were Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Town Planner Candace Daigle, Town Accountant Brenda Paquette, Police Chief Vinnie Baioccehetti, Librarian Jackie Heath, Eric Zygmont from the Winnisquam Echo, and Receptionist Tracey Russo. Glenda Hill was excused, Jim Fortin attended late to answer some pertinent questions.

#### Minutes:

Albert Akerstrom made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2008 meeting as written. Ken Ellis seconded, motion passed 10 to one David Morse abstained.

#### Sewer

Town Administrator Beaudin noted that she had reminded the Sewer Commission of tonight's meeting; however she did get an e-mail stating he would be unable to make it. She then asked if someone else could be present to present the budget, however there was no one in attendance. General discussion ensued as to whether or not the Sewer Commission has to answer to the BOS, which they do not. However their budget does have to pass the taxpayers. As well as how prevalent is this type of precinct in N.H. Apparently it is still very prevalent in a lot of smaller communities. Some felt that we may have outgrown the precinct, and wanted to know if they are bound by last year's budget if they do not show up to present this years. It was explained that adjustments can be made by the Budget Committee and they can recommend an amount different than the Sewer Commission. Town Administrator Beaudin noted that the sewer budget will appear as a separate warrant article and a failed vote does not then revert to the prior year's budget; it is important that the voters understand funds are needed to operate the department. David Morse made a motion to table the Sewer Budget until the next meeting. Ken Knowlton seconded, motion passed 10 to one Gary Flack abstained.

#### Union Wages

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that the fact finder should have his report to the Town no later than 1/6/09. Hopefully they will have come to an agreement and it can be presented to the Board of Selectman, after which it will be brought before the Budget

Committee for review. If no agreement has been reached the Union workers will remain at the same level as they are now as cost items must be submitted no later than January 13, 2009.

### Library

Librarian Jackie Heath presented her budget by stating that in tough economic times libraries are used more frequently. Their circulation has increased from 17,000 to 20,000 and services have been expanded. Story time is up from 10 to 20 people per day, and the summer program had at least 100 people in attendance each week. The library does charge a non-resident fee now along with an overdue fee with a 10 day grace period. Jackie explained that the library has received two grants for books and the summer program. She is asking for money for a photocopier lease as she has seen quite an increase in this service. David Morse asked that line item 01-4550-300 be amended to \$22,835 as further information is now available for the benefits portion of the budget. Ken Knowlton seconded, motion passed unanimously. David Morse made a motion to accept line items 01-4550-101, 01-4550-140 and 01-4550-999 Ken Ellis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### Cemeteries

David Morse explained there had been a proposal to maintain cemeteries' advertised in the paper, of which three bids came in. It was decided to use Maple Ridge Landscaping service owned by Randy Danforth who kept his bid the same as last year. There were several repairs to headstones at Highland and Perkins Cemeteries. Page cemetery has a headstone restoration project to get 11 new headstones for people who were all listed under one headstone. They will each have their own headstone now. This will be completed in the spring. Judkins-Hunt cemetery had several large pine trees removed. All the cemeteries need varying levels of care. David explained that the Eagle Scouts are in the process of posting signs at all the cemeteries. David Morse made a motion to amend line item 01-4195-999 from \$8,900 to \$7, 875. David Morse made a motion to accept line item 01-4195-999 as amended, Ken Ellis seconded motion passed unanimously.

### Highway Block Grant

Town Administrator Beaudin explained the town has received a grant in the amount of \$171,955 from the Department of Transportation, and while there may be some changes it is up \$9,000 from last year. Ken Knowlton made a motion to accept line item 01-4319-001 Ken Ellis seconded, motion passed unanimously.

### Capital - Other

Chairman Mitchell gave an overview of what is going on with B.R.A.T.T. He explained that in order to proceed with Phase I we will need to ask the taxpayers for approval to borrow money from Phase II. There will be an independent warrant article so the money can be gross appropriated. It will then change from Phases to just the

B.R.A.T.T. Trail. Chairman Mitchell explained that in 2004 they had applied for a grant for \$282,720; the town portion would be \$70,000. They will need an additional \$70,000 to finish the fence and the cost for that came in \$162,000 over budget. When they asked the state for more money they were told to borrow from the next phase. This explains the need for the warrant article. If taxpayers will not go along with the plan to borrow money from Phase II the trail will be discontinued, at which point the money will need to be returned to the state. Linda Frawley asked if the first phase of the project was gross appropriated. Chairman Mitchell said yes it was. David Morse asked for clarification on how much we are asking of the taxpayers. Chairman Mitchell explained that he doesn't have an exact figure but it would be around 20% which would be around \$100,000. Linda Frawley asked who is overseeing the project. Chairman Mitchell explained that Rick Ball is in charge. Ken Knowlton suggested it would be a good idea to have a representative at the Deliberative Session to simplify the whole project to the taxpayers.

Town Administrator Beaudin explained the Route 140/106 waterline relocation/replacement project. She noted that the original proposal would have jogged the lines around existing drainage and would not have been in the best interest of the Town's system. The \$131,000 being requested will install new line in a direct line from the tank through the intersection. This line is the Town's primary service line from the water tank on Route 140. David Morse expressed his displeasure at making the taxpayers pay for the cost of the project. He felt that the water users should be the ones to pay for the project. Town Administrator Beaudin explained that the water does service primary functions of the town such as the Fire Dept., Schools, and Police Dept. It is part of the municipal infrastructure and should be maintained and expanded as such. Select Chair Cormier noted that the water users had in the past two years taken on the significant debt of the Route 3 waterline project and the new well; he noted the Selectmen felt that this project should be funded by the taxpayers. Ken Knowlton made a motion to accept line items 01-4909-005, 01-4909-022, 01-4909-504 Tonyel Mitchell-Berry seconded; motion passed 10 to one David Morse was opposed.

#### Capital Vehicle and Equipment

Fred Wells had some questions for Public Works Director Jim Fortin as to what comes with the new plow truck they will be getting. Jim explained that the truck comes pretty much bare; they will have a dump body mounted along with a plow mounting bracket. They will be using existing parts from other trucks to make up the plow, wing and sander. Next year they will need a pick-up and a larger amount in Capital Reserve. David Morse asked what the goal with the Capital Reserve account Jim said to replenish it slowly. Chairman Mitchell made a motion to table line item 01-4902-004 (fire truck) Ken Ellis seconded; motion passed unanimously. Ken Ellis made a motion to accept line items 01-4902-060, 01-4902-700, and 01-4902-701 Norma Patten seconded; motion passed unanimously.

#### Capital Reserve

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that the BOS has discontinued the Concord Street sidewalk project in favor of refurbishing the Main Street sidewalks along with the east portion of Route 140 to Belmont Elementary School, at a cost of \$90,000. Then from the Fire Station to Main St which will cost \$58,000, the spending is close to what is in the budget today. The rest will go towards the Church Street sidewalk. Ken Knowlton expressed some concern over whether we should be spending any money on putting sidewalks in, when we don't know who will be maintaining them. That it could also be a liability. Chairman Mitchell said we do need to figure out how they will be maintained. Jim Fortin said he would be able to maintain them however it will bring up the subject of needing new equipment to do so. Chairman Mitchell explained if we have the sidewalks on Route 106 put in now, the State will pay for it, versus waiting and the Town having to pay for it.

Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti asked for line item 01-4915-006 to be amended from \$65,000 to \$30,000. He will replace one car and be giving that car to the Code Enforcement. David Morse asked about Road Inventory Layout, it was cut \$10,000 last year what was that for. Town Administrator Beaudin explained that it is the final year of funding for the project. David Morse also asked what the funds for the drainage project were for. Town Administrator Beaudin said it is for the Ladd Hill Road project. Several roads have had the culvert work completed on them, including Union Road and Cotton Hill. The Board of Selectman has given approval for \$750,000 to complete Horne Road next year, however Town Administrator Beaudin explained that due to savings overall from the 2008 road project expenditures; the amount could be amended by \$100,000. Ken Ellis made a motion to accept line items 01-4915-001, 01-4915-003 Norma Patten seconded; motion passed unanimously. David Morse made a motion to amend line item 01-4915-004 from \$60,000 to zero Fred Wells seconded; motion passed unanimously. David Morse made a motion to amend line item 01-4915-006 from \$65,000 to \$30,000 motion passed 10 to one Albert Akerstrom was opposed. Ken Ellis made a motion to accept line items 01-4915-011, 01-4915-050, 01-4915-200, 01-4915-201, 300, 320, 501, and 601 Norma Patten seconded; motion passed unanimously. Ken Knowlton made a motion to amend line item 01-4915-205 from \$750,000 to \$650,000 Tonyel Mitchell-Berry seconded; motion passed unanimously.

### Revenues

Town Administrator Beaudin explained that there is \$3,611,060.00 in revenue and credits to offset this year's budget.

Next Meeting: January 13, 2009 @ 6:00 in the Corner Meeting House; Public Hearing will take place that same evening beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn: by Ken Knowlton, seconded by Linda Frawley motion passed meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Chairman Ron Mitchell

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Gary Flack

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Selectman Ron Cormier

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Tonyel Mitchell-Berry

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Ken Ellis

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Kenneth Knowlton

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David Morse

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Glenda Hill

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Linda Frawley

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Fred Wells

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Norma Patten

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Albert Akerstrom

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Mark Roberts

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Submitted By: Tracey Russo  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_