

Municipal Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2005, 6:30 P.M.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Ron Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Also present were Committee members Norma Patten, Ken Ellis, Mark Roberts, John Rowe, Ronald Cormier, Jr., Ken Knowlton, Linda Frawley, Selectmen's Representative Brian Watterson. Others in attendance were Town Administrator Donald P. McLelland, Sr., Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace.

Minutes

Ken Knowlton moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 14, 2004, as written seconded by Norma Patten. Linda Frawley questioned the wording of an item on page 5 of the minutes; Chairman Mitchell indicated that he felt the paragraph was written appropriately, with no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

MS7 & Revenues

Chairman Mitchell explained that the MS 7 would be the budget document used during the Public Hearing. Linda Frawley asked what the cable franchise fees revenues are. Town Administrator McLelland indicated that \$25,000 was used in the budget however; the town has seen revenues as low as \$16,000 and as high as \$32,000 with that figure fluctuating yearly. It was asked what the revenue from sale of municipal property was for, Town Administrator McLelland indicated it is from the sale of cars and equipment that is no longer needed or used by the Town.

Discussion followed regarding the sale of land owned by the town with Town Administrator McLelland explaining that in past years the Board of Selectmen were not interested in the process, however the issue will be readdressed with the current Board of Selectmen. Ken Knowlton asked that the Conservation Commission have a chance to review the properties before they are put out to bid if that process should happen.

Linda Frawley asked if there are any plans to look at revenue centers such as permit fees and impact fees. Discussion followed with Town Administrator McLelland explaining that the Planning Board is dealing with the permit fees.

Chairman Mitchell asked what the current figures in the budget would do to the tax rate, Town Administrator McLelland indicated that the new municipal tax rate would be \$8.77/ thousand for 2005, up from \$7.81 for 2004.

Miscellaneous

Chairman Mitchell explained to the committee that during the public hearing he would go through and explain each item. Linda Frawley asked what are the major reasons for the increases. Selectman Watterson indicated that there are several items that have raised the budget, a truck for public works, funding for the BRATT trail (with grant revenues) and the development of the Parks & Recreation department.

There was discussion regarding the communications between the schools and the town, with Town Administrator indicating that on several occasions the Board of Selectmen have tried to arrange meetings, with the School Board being unavailable

Next Meeting Date

The committee will meet next on Wednesday, February 9, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at Corner Meeting House for the Public Hearing on the budget.

Adjournment

Ken Knowlton motioned to adjourn; Jon Rowe seconded the motion, all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Approved:

Chairman Ronald Mitchell

Gary Flack

Brian Watterson, Selectman

John Rowe

Kenneth Knowlton

Ken Ellis

Norma Patten

John Scott

Peter M. Gray, Sr.

Linda Frawley

Ronald Cormier, Jr.

Mark Roberts

Submitted by:
Cary Lagace Date: _____

Albert Akerstrom