

Municipal Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 24, 2009 6:00 P.M.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Ron Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Committee members present were Norma Patten, Fred Wells, Ken Ellis, Linda Frawley, Albert Akerstrom, Mark Roberts, and Ward Peterson. Glenda Hill and Selectman Ron Cormier were absent. Others in attendance were Town Administrator K. Jeanne Beaudin, Budget Clerk Tracey Russo; others in attendance were Town Planner Candace Daigle, Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti, Lieutenant Mark Lewandowski, Building Inspector Steve Dalton and Selectman David Morse.

Minutes: Chairman Ron Mitchell began by stating he would like to make an amendment on line article 01-4220-105 Fire Department Call Salary. Albert Akerstrom made the initial motion and since he is a call fireman there was a conflict of interest. Ken Knowlton made a motion to accept line item 01-4220-105, Linda Frawley seconded all were in favor Albert Akerstrom abstained. Ken Knowlton made a motion to accept the minutes, Linda Frawley seconded all were in favor motion passed. Albert Akerstrom made a motion to accept the minutes from 1-13-09 as written, Linda Frawley seconded motion passed.

Town Administrator Beaudin addressed the issue of the Public Works telephone lines and the cost. She explained there will be a decrease of one line as well as possibly switching to Metrocast. This will decrease line item 01-4311-210 from \$3,850.00 to \$3,100.00. She also addressed the sidewalk issue on Route 3 by the Belknap Mall; she has contacted the City of Laconia and feels we can come to some kind of agreement. The Public Works Director was out and will get back to her as soon as he returns.

Police Department: Police Chief Vinnie Baiocchetti gave an overview of his department. He said it has been a very active year personnel and activity wise. One police officer retired, a dispatcher left and one officer also left. However we have hired two new officers and a new dispatcher. There were four significant incidents that took a lot of man hours. There are more patrol officers walking beats. They are trying different patrols; there was a lot of work on Highway Safety. Chief Baiocchetti handed out some information on Crimes against Individuals/Property/Society/all others. This brought some questions concerning the neighborhoods these crimes are in, as well as if these numbers have raised drastically for a town our size. He explained that no certain crimes are centered in any one area of Town, it is all over. Ken Knowlton asked if vandalism has gone down since the curfew was put into effect. Chief Baiocchetti said yes when you target any one area that usually the problems will go away. Linda Frawley asked what exactly Crimes are against all others. They are people resisting arrest, bench warrants, driving offenses anything not reportable to the Feds. Chairman Mitchell asked if the motorcycle is being used as much as it should be. Chief Baiocchetti explained that Kevin has been riding it since April. Ken Knowlton wanted to know why Special Duty pay has gone down,

it was explained that there are no more construction details. Ward Peterson asked why the increase in uniforms. Chief Baiocchetti said they have several that needed to be replaced and he had purchased some from the Concord Police Department uniforms of which some were brand new. Fred Wells wanted to know why there was an increase in the Motorcycle lease, it was said that this is the first time in 6 years. Linda Frawley would like to know more detail on the Books and Community Policing. Chief explained subscriptions need to be paid for periodicals, journals, and magazines. Community Policing is for the Explorers, Halloween, Senior Citizen Programs, and bicycle programs. Ken Knowlton made a motion to accept line items 01-4210-101 through 01-4210-119, Ken Ellis seconded all were in favor motion passed. Norma Patten made a motion to accept line items 01-4210-120 through 01-4210-240, Ken Ellis seconded all were in favor motion passed. Ken Knowlton made a motion to accept line items 01-4210-250 through 01-4210-719, Ken Ellis seconded all were in favor motion passed.

Land Use: Town Planner Candace Daigle gave an overview of her department for the past year. She said as a whole the department budget is down by .3%. The boards stayed busy this year with a 22% increase in zoning applications. There is still some major construction going very slowly in some key neighborhoods. The Planning Board spent a lot of time on age restricted issues especially Mobile Home Parks. The Zoning board has a new set of rules and procedures with the redevelopment of existing non-conforming issues. Chairman Mitchell asked if the Town will need to be re-mapped. Candy explained that in 2007 they did a flight for Road inventory which was hugely helpful to all departments. R. Ball is researching an opportunity for updated aerials through NH DOT. Other opportunities to remap will be evaluated as they occur. Ken Ellis made a motion to accept line items 01-4191-101 through 01-4191-507, Norma Patten seconded all were in favor motion passed.

Conservation Commission: Town Planner Candace Daigle gave an overview of what has been happening with the Conservation Commission. She explained they have been very busy with the Aquifer and Earth excavation amendments and have worked very closely with the Planning Board. They gave out two Jeff Marden Scholarships. They will continue work on the easement for Tioga River Wildlife Conservation Area, a recently acquired a parcel of land on Route 140 near the Town line. This land has passive recreational possibilities. Ken Knowlton made note that access was just put into the Town Forest with help from Tim Hayes and his son. Town Administrator Beaudin explained that in 2008 the courts chose to make a ruling on current use penalty on subdivisions that went against previously established law. Thus there were two subdivisions that penalties were leveraged against and the penalties were abated and will be collected at a later date when the lots have a change in use such as ownership or development. Ken Ellis made a motion to accept line items 01-4600-101 through 01-4660-999, Fred Wells seconded all were in favor motion passed. Ken Knowlton abstained from voting.

Building Inspection: Building Inspector Steve Dalton went over some key points to his budget. He said there are very few new homes and in fact more additions and small projects. He was busy with the Junkyard ordinance re-write as well as a new ordinance for Rental property. Rental property will now need to have a compliance certificate issued. This program will go into effect on January 1, 2010. The fee structure has been changed to recoup some of the costs, this being \$40.00 for the 1st unit and \$10.00 each additional unit. Steve has been working closely with Land Use on this. The clerk's salary has increased due to the heavier workload of inputting

old and new building permits onto a database. Steve will be pursuing his certified Building Official Certification as codes are changing more and more codes are being changed to reflect that you must be a certified Building official to inspect for compliance. He is hoping to be completed by June 2010. Chairman Mitchell asked if the Fire Department sees something remiss in their inspections will they let Steve know. Steve said yes and in fact they will most likely be helping with some of the rental inspections. Linda Frawley asked what Professional Services is. It was explained that when the Building Inspector is out, it is to hire a qualified individual to cover for him so the contractors who are working on a timeline don't have to wait for him to return. Ms. Frawley also would like to know what do the dues and memberships cover. Steve explained that it is for the New Hampshire Building Officials Code Council, as well as the International Code Council along with some others. Town Administrator Beaudin explained there are talks of Regional Sharing of this information at the County level. Ken Ellis made a motion to accept line items 01-4240-101 through 01-4240-999, Ward Peterson seconded all were in favor motion passed.

Patriotic Purposes: Town Administrator Beaudin explained there were no significant changes to this budget. Bussing was reduced to one bus for Old Home day, fireworks stayed the same. Linda Frawley gave a brief overview of the Heritage Commission saying that two new community events were planned this past year, as well as writing 5 new grants. Ken Knowlton made a motion to accept line items 01-4583-452 through 01-4583-999, Ken Ellis seconded all were in favor motion passed.

Property Taxation: Town Administrator gave a brief overview of this budget. The budget is up by 23% due in large part to appeals some of which are being handled by the courts now. Property values decreased by 9%, we are anticipating 100% ratio on the equalization rate. There were approximately 39 foreclosures this past year out of 159 sales. Fred Wells asked how many of them were mobile homes. Town Administrator said 1/3. Mr. Wells also wanted to know if the town would take over these mobile homes after 3 years if the taxes weren't paid on them. Ms. Beaudin explained that the Town has been advised by Council taking a mobile home in a park is not a good idea. It is much better to try and work with the homeowner to set up a payment schedule. Norma Patten made a motion to accept line items 01-4152-102 through 01-4512-710, Ken Ellis seconded all were in favor motion passed.

Sanitation/Solid Waste: Town Administrator Beaudin explained this budget. She stated that the Town went to bid for a new waste hauler. This bid was won by Waste Management and will go into effect on January 1, 2010; this is a five year contract. She feels pretty confident that we will receive the same level of service if not better. There is a new tipping fee of \$62.10. There have been significant efforts to recycle in the town. There was significant discussion about pay as you throw program versus single stream recycling. Ward Peterson asked if Single Stream Recycling was something that would have to go on a separate warrant article and Town Administrator Beaudin replied yes it would. Ken Ellis made a motion to accept line items 01-4323-470 through 01-4323-450, Norma Patten seconded all were in favor motion passed.

Health Agencies: Town Administrator Beaudin gave a short overview of this budget. The South Road Cemetery is asking for an increase of \$1,000.00, Community Action is asking for an increase of \$514.00. This is the same as last year however last year was level funded. Youth

Services is now at the County Level and they are not requesting any money. Linda Frawley asked how the reports are run through the Welfare office. It was explained that once the money is used by an individual from the outside agencies than the town will step in to help. Ken Knowlton made a motion to accept line items 01-4415-330 through 01-4415-342, Fred Wells seconded all were in favor motion passed.

Ward Peterson asked for a motion to end the meeting.

Next Meeting: December 1, 2009 @ 6:00

Motion to Adjourn: by Ken Ellis, seconded by Albert Akerstrom motion passed meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Chairman Ron Mitchell

Ward Peterson

Tonyel Mitchell-Berry

Kenneth Knowlton

Glenda Hill

Fred Wells

Albert Akerstrom

Submitted By: Tracey Russo

Date: _____

Selectman Ron Cormier

Ken Ellis

Linda Frawley

Norma Patten

Mark Roberts