

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 27, 2010
Town Hall 6:30pm

Chr. Larry Wahl called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Present: Chairman Larry Wahl, Vice Chair John Lamson, members Liz Taccetta, Gail Pare, Gail Klanchesser, Darin Sabin, Tom Benson, Russell Cooke, Dave Mueller rep for the school board and Selectman Jack O'Reilly speaking on behalf of the Selectmen this evening. Also in attendance was Selectman Jan Stuart and Beatrice Marconi – Administrative Assistant.

Chr. Wahl handed out RSA 32:10 (paragraph I Section B) pertaining to moving money without town input from one area of the budget to another. He pointed out that once the operating budget is passed, the Selectmen then are the agents and have that right. Selectman O'Reilly concurred adding that as long as the town's bottom line does not exceed the budgeted amount. He also spoke of the no is no rule.

Town's General Government 2010 Budget Request of \$ 1,975,402

G Klanchesser moved to tentatively recommend a general government budget of \$1,975,402 and G Pare seconded.

Chr Wahl handed out a spread sheet and mentioned that in looking at his numbers, \$3,264 was over spent in the General Government Budget. The AA will look into this.

The Budget Committee made a thorough review of each of the departments, buildings and areas falling under the Board of Selectmen.

Audio recording of meeting is available and on file in the Selectmen's Office.

Areas particularly addressed with changes were:

- Town Garage Electricity budget request of \$3,000 was cut to \$2,000
(BOS had increased it up to \$3,000 to allow for excess power needed during construction of town garage If approved)
- Old Town Hall Audio and Video installation request of \$1,000 was cut as was a non priority project
- Sump Pump to be purchased on or before the Public Hearing for Old Town Hall
- Regarding encumbrances, the total is \$325,589. There was a bit of discussion on the OTH budget paying for the Alarm box upgrade at \$1,500 x 6 bldgs)
- On a suggestion by G. Pare, **J. Lamson moved to add \$1,000 to the Regional Associations bottom line. G Pare seconded. Motion passed with D Mueller and R. Cooke abstaining.** (Selectmen to apply increases to misc agencies)

G Klanchesser moved to adjust the motion to the General Government bottom line to reflect a new total of \$ 1,974,402. G Pare seconded the amendment. Chr. Wahl called for the vote which passed.

Chr. Wahl then called for a ten minute break at 8:42pm

The meeting reconvened at 8:55pm. Chr. Wahl then handed out a spread sheet and felt the Selectmen should make an effort to reduce their numbers. Right now the grand total stands at \$ 6,093,724. Selectman O'Reilly gave a brief overview of areas the Board would be willing to make adjustments. After much debate, Selectmen's Rep J. O'Reilly suggested that by reducing the Highway budget by \$62,446 (excluding the sign requested by the Planning Board placed in the Highway Budget), the General Gov't and Highway budgets

combined would be at a 0% increase from 2009. It was the consensus of the budget committee to reduce in this manner rather than go back to the departments and ask for an additional 1 or 2% cut.

Chr Wahl noted that the Town's Medical is up \$152,000 over last year. Selectmen O'Reilly stated it was closer to \$72,000 than \$ 152,000. The AA will look into this.

J Lamson (and D. Sabin agreed) that at the Public Hearing if the Budget Committee notes the different lines with significant increases beyond the Town's control, and note that no COLAs were administered this year and speak of the committees that are being formed to address steps and health cost issues, it would show the people that we are all part of the picture and that a pro active approach is taking place.

Chr. Wahl mentioned he had concerns about the Cemetery over spending the Cap Reserve and that use of funds was not timely.

Chairman Wahl stated that after reducing the grand total bottom line by \$ 62,446, the new Budget Committee recommended number would be \$ 6,031,278. Selectman O'Reilly added that the BOS operating budget figure will reflect changes to their bottom line for all departments.

Gail Pare then moved to tentatively recommend a Budget Committee 2010 operations budget for the town at \$6,031,278. Gail Klanchesser seconded. The motion passed which was followed by a motion to adjourn at 10:23 pm. With no objections heard, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant

NOTE TO BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS: The Selectmen's recommended total operating budget has been adjusted to reflect the difference in the Rec committee's number. See Warrant Article #7.