

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 5, 2012
Town Hall 7:00pm

Chairman John Lamson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Present: Chr. John Lamson, Selectman's Rep Jack O'Reilly, School Board Rep Dave Mueller, Gail Pare, Mike and Janis Marconi, Sandy Sweeney, Mary Crossley; Representing the Conservation Commission-Chairman Justin Richardson; Representing the Recreation Committee-Diana Moulton; Representing the Historic District Commission-Paul Pellitier; Administrative Assistant-Beatrice Marconi. *(absent V. Chair Gail Klanchesser)*

Minute Approval: September 16, 2012 *G. Pare moved to accept the minutes of September 16, 2012 with amendment (striking the portion pertaining to collecting for Hazardous Waste Day by the Transfer Station Director). J. O'Reilly seconded. Motion passed 5-0-3 with Mike and Janis Marconi and Mary Crossley abstaining.*

Recreation Committee 2013 Budget Request of \$ 51,550: *M. Marconi moved to tentatively recommend the Recreation Budget of \$ 51,550. D. Mueller seconded. Passed 8-0 after discussion.* Diana Moulton presented.

- SeptFest: J. O'Reilly noted the date change for the 1713 Celebration from August to September 14, 2013 thanks to the support of the Rec Committee. The SeptFest line is increasing from \$3,000 to \$5,000 as the hours will be extended for the increase in events. 1713 funds will also go towards SeptFest/300th celebration.
- Summer Program: That line was increased from \$30,000 to \$32,000 in anticipation of more participants. Refund is sent to the town if attendance is below projected levels as well as the family portion, which the YMCA collects for Newington.
- Holiday Lighting Party: Will be held at Old Town Hall this coming Sunday.

Chr. Lamson then called for the vote on the motion to tentatively recommend the Recreation Budget of \$ 51,550 which passed 8-0.

Conservation Commission 2013 Budget Request of \$ 10,904: *J. O'Reilly moved to tentatively recommend the Conservation Commission budget of \$ 10,904. G. Pare seconded. Passed 8-0 after discussion.* Chr. Justin Richardson presented.

- The budget request had decreased from \$15,251 to \$10,904.
- Chr. Richardson noted that the Town Forestry Management report costs were yet to be paid for this year. G. Pare asked about the town forest and discussion went on about the dumping area they hoped to address. Conservation hopes to create trail maps. He went on to talk about the havoc that storms had created with the trees and once they get the management plan they can then analyze and prioritize what needs to be done. G. Pare added that some plans will recommend harvesting, or setting up areas geared toward animal habitation, or suggest areas to concentrate on undergrowth.
- Secretarial Wages had increased as they may evaluate her rate.
- A forestry demonstration is planned in conjunction with the Town's 300th Celebration.
- Beautification line was down from \$2,000 to \$1,000 as they didn't plan to fund the care of the park between the school and fire station.

Chr. Lamson then called for the vote on the motion to tentatively recommend the Conservation Commission Budget of \$ 10,904 which passed 8-0.

Historic District Commission 2013 Budget Request of \$ 21,950: *S. Sweeney moved to tentatively recommend the HDC budget of \$ 21,950. D. Mueller seconded. Passed 8-0 after discussion.* Paul Pellitier presented.

- Monument Project will be at the site of the existing tribute but the goal is to expand on the names to honor those Newington residents who served our country from the Korean war forward. It will be on a similar stone but with a smooth surface making it easier to add names as time passes.
- Operation Expense line increased from \$300 to \$ 2,500 as G. Pare has been notified that there are glass negatives existing that Newington may very well be interested in developing - preserving the historical value of the town. (UVC framing – rotating the display, etc).
- The Goat Island phase of the grant continues which is reimbursable but needs to be funded.
- There was a brief discussion about the proposed library expansion as it is in the Historic District.

Chr. Lamson then called for the vote on the motion to tentatively recommend the HDC Budget of \$ 21,950 which passed 8-0.

After the budget presentations, the Budget Committee discussed the towns valuation fluctuation and J. O'Reilly noted it was within a couple of million of last year. Most of the pavement and building maintenance projects will be complete over the next few years. He briefly spoke of the structural issues at the library and added that when they make their presentation, more details would be discussed. Parking was questioned with G. Pare noting that the plan would be reviewed by the HDC. Recreation may be doing something with the skating pond in the future. The Spaulding project continues in full swing with future plans to develop the former outdoor movie site as a State garage.

The AA was asked to supply the Budget Committee with year end revenues for review.

S. Sweeney moved to adjourn at 7:52pm. Seconded by J. O'Reilly. Motion passed 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi

Administrative Assistant