

**Town of Newington
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 20, 2014 Town Hall 7:00pm**

Chr. Lamson called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Present: Chairman John Lamson, VC Gail Klanchesser, Gail Pare, Michael Marconi, Sandra Sweeney, Leila Richardson, Brandon Arsenault, School Board Rep. David Mueller, Selectmen's Rep. Cosmas Iocovozzi, Library Trustee Chair Steve Bush and other Library Trustees: Melissa Prefontaine, Gup Knox, Lee Lamson, as well as Town Administrator, Martha Roy.

Minutes Review-

March 15, 2014 minutes were reviewed. **M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of March 15, 2014 as presented with corrections, seconded by G. Klanchesser. The vote was 5-0-4 in favor (with B. Arsenault, G. Klanchesser, L. Richardson and C. Iocovozzi abstaining, as they were not present).**

Library Review-

G. Klanchesser moved to allow the Library Trustees to expend unanticipated funds from the Library Trust funds to complete the Library Addition and Renovation project at an amount not to exceed \$25,000. C. Iocovozzi seconded this and discussion ensued.

J. Lamson discussed the following:

1. It would be more expensive to the Town to bring back contractors to complete the work rather than have them finish it while they are at the Library now.
2. The source of revenue is the Library Trust funds and would not have an impact on the tax rate.
3. Can the Board of Selectmen prudently take the funds from some other source in the Town budget to pay for the Library expenditure needs.

Melissa Prefontaine explained that the Library Trustees had met with many of the Town Committees and redesigned the parking to meet their requests. The new design was more expensive than the original plan. The new design required changes in grading, sidewalks, lighting, in addition to design and paving. The unanticipated expense was absorbed in the existing project funding.

L. Richardson expressed concerns about costs of items at the Library.

J. Lamson stated that the Library had a contingency fund of approximately \$50,000 and M. Prefontaine stated that this was used up with the parking plan. Lighting was over budget and wood rot in the old library, that was previously unanticipated, had to be addressed.

J. Lamson asked if the Selectmen have any funds available. C. Iocovozzi explained that due to numerous lawsuits the Town is currently facing all funding needs to be reserved.

L. Richardson asked for details about over expenditure and the water line was discussed.

M. Marconi requested the cost per square footage for the new building and the cost of the furniture paid for. He also asked what the tax rate impact would be. M. Roy replied that it was an impact of under \$.50 per \$1000 of assessed valuation. M. Marconi inquired as to whether the Library would be coming back to the Town for more funding. M. Prefontaine did not anticipate this being necessary.

C. Iocovozzi asked if the \$25,000 would be enough to complete the project. M. Prefontaine stated that the Construction Manager and Architect have stated that this will be sufficient.

B. Arsenault questioned the due diligence of the Library with this project. M. Prefontaine answered stating they have worked for three years on the project.

G. Knox notified the Committee that interest from the Library Trust Fund this year is over \$50,000. The Trustees had budgeted only \$16,000. Discussion was held regarding increasing the originally moved amount to insure sufficient funding.

G. Klanchesser amended her original motion to the amount of \$30,000. C. Iocovozzi seconded the amendment.

J. Lamson stated that the Library would be invited back to give an overview of the project in September.

J. Lamson called for a vote on the motion and all were in favor.

Adjournment: G. Klanchesser moved to adjourn at 7:50 pm, seconded by C. Iocovozzi with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha S. Roy
Town Administrator