

# NEWINGTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 8, 2003

Present: Budget Committee Members (BUDCOM)  
Alfred Smith (Chairman), Dennis Acton, Kay Akerley, Leslie Brock, Laura Coleman,  
Will Gilbert, Gail Pare, Richard Spinney, Terri Spinney, Richard Sullivan,  
Board of Selectmen Representative, Janice Stuart

The Budget Committee Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to review the following budgets: Library, Recreation, Historic Commission, Conservation Commission, Cemetery Commission and Highway Department.

Cosmas Iovocozzi, Board of Selectmen representative to the recreation committee asked that the budget committee postpone the review of the recreation budget for two weeks. Iovocozzi explained that the recreation committee is currently working with the YMCA to get the children's summer program set up and that the amount of the summer program has not yet been established. The date to review the recreation budget was changed to the budget meeting of January 22, 2003.

### CEMETERY

BUDCOM member, Will Gilbert made a motion that the Cemetery budget in the amount of \$12,550.00 be accepted; second by Terri Spinney.

There was discussion regarding the amount spent in contracted services. Kay Akerley asked who puts out the contract for cemetery mowing. Cosmas Iovocozzi explained that the Board of Selectmen asked for the bids on the cemetery mowing. The cemetery mowing was \$10,200 but there had been extra work done this year. Clifford Abbott, cemetery representative explained that the extra money that was spent last year in contracted services was for pulling and hauling shrubs and stumps and general cemetery cleanup. Terri Spinney asked if there will be extra work done this year. Iovocozzi explain that there are always maintenance problems that come up and that the \$12,000.00 that is being requested will cover those problems. Chairman Smith recommended the line item be changed to read "Contracted Services and General Maintenance". Clifford Abbott asked that the Stipend for the cemetery Sexton be increased to \$550.00. Chairman Smith explained that a change in the Stipend must be done by warrant article. There was discussion on what duties are covered by the Sexton's stipend. Cosmas Iovocozzi explained that the Sexton receives a stipend for doing all the paperwork in selling the lots, plus billing and updating records. The digging of the grave is paid directly to the Sexton by the funeral director. Any additional work that is done at the cemetery such as stump removal, with the use of Billy Beal's equipment is charged to the contracted services line. The Chairman called for a vote and the motion to accept the Cemetery budget in the amount of \$12,550.00 carried with none opposed.

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#### CONSERVATION

BUDCOM member Kay Akerley made a motion that the Conservation Commission budget in the amount of \$7,982 be accepted; seconded by Terri Spinney.

Chairman Smith asked what was being done with the \$3,000 requested for the Town Forest. Margaret Lamson, Conservation Commission chairperson explained that the Town will be updating the Forest Management Plan that was drawn up in 1993 by Charles Moreno. Kay Akerley asked if the Town is planning to become more active in implementing the Management Plan. Jack O'Reilly, Selectmen's representative to the Conservation Commission explained that there may be a need for a complete survey of the property. However, currently the Town is working on obtaining a lease from the Federal Government for the forest. The lease will prevent any development being done by the PDA. He also explained that the town will become more actively engaged in implementing the management plan as soon as it has been updated and the lease details are worked out. There was discussion concerning Wetland Resources. It was pointed out that this year's request of \$4,620 is considerably less than last years because there is less work to be done by the Conservation Commission. The Chairman called for a vote and the motion to accept a Conservation Commission budget in the amount of \$7,982 carried with none opposed.

#### LANGDON LIBRARY

BUDCOM member, Leslie Brock made a motion that the Langdon Library budget in the amount of \$31,400 be accepted; Seconded by Kay Akerley.

John Welch, Library Trustee pointed out that the increase in the Librarian's Salary line is to bring the current librarian's salary up closer to the former librarian's salary. Also there is an increase in the substitute's wage line. This is because of the new children's program and the level of experience that the substitute is bringing to the position. All agreed that the Librarian and the substitute are doing an excellent job. The Chairman called for a vote and the motion to accept a Library budget in the amount of \$31,400 was carried with none opposed.

#### HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

BUDCOM member, Kay Akerley made a motion that the Historic District Commission budget in the amount of \$6,100 be accepted; seconded by Janice Stuart.

Barbara Hill, Historic District Commission chairperson gave a presentation on the restoration and preservation of the old Town books. The Historic District Commission had met with a representative from Brown River Bindery of Vermont. Barbara explained that the \$6,000 that is being requested this year is just part of the restoration project, which may take three years to complete. Will Gilbert asked if there were any plans to have the books digitized for use on a website. Barbara said that was not part of the original project but maybe it could be looked into. Will said that if Barbara could get a price he may be interested in sponsoring that part of the project. All agreed that the restoration and preservation of the old Town Records was a very valuable project. The Chairman called for a vote and the motion to accept a Historic District Commission budget in the amount of \$6,100 carried with none opposed.

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### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

BUDCOM member, Kay Akerley made a motion that the Highway department operating budget in the amount of \$161,172 be accepted; seconded by Gail Pare.

Selectmen's representative to the Highway Department, Cosmas Iovozzi explained plans for resurfacing of the road in 2003. He stated that there is a need for overlay on Patterson Lane, part of Old Dover Road needs paving and Fox Point Road needs shimming. Kay Akerley asked if there was a reason to put \$4,600 in for ditches and shoulders when the Town only spent \$583 last year. Iovozzi said that the money will be spent on Patterson Lane this year. Kay Akerley asked why the Road Salt line is over expended. Is it because the price is up? Iovozzi stated that it was because the Town used more salt this year. Dennis Acton asked where the money for snow plowing is budgeted. It was explained that snow plowing comes under the salary line item. Gail Pare asked if the Industrial Corridor Road opening was considered when planning the highway salary line. Iovozzi affirmed that it had. Chairman Smith stated that the \$8,500 Hydrant Rental is a service to the Town and should be moved to the General Government portion of the budget. Kay Akerley amended her motion to accept the Highway Budget in the amount of \$152,672; seconded by Janice Stuart. The Chairman called for a vote on the amended motion. The motion to accept the Highway budget in the amount of \$152,672 carried with none opposed.

BUDCOM member, Kay Akerley made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Leslie Brock.  
Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L Gillespie  
Administrative Assistant