

NEWINGTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 9, 2002

Present: *Budget Committee Members (BUDCOM)*
Alfred Smith (Chairman), Dennis Acton, Leslie Brock, Dick Spinney, Kay Akerley

Board of Selectmen Representative (BOS)
John (Jack) O'Reilly (Chairman)

Sewer Commission Members
George Fletcher, Robert Hart Sr.

Planning Board Members (PB)
Marlon Frink (Chairman), Sandy Hislop, & Town Planner Tom Morgan

The Budget Committee Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to review the budgets of the Planning Board and Sewer Commission.

Leslie Brock made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held on January 2, 2002; motion seconded by Dick Spinney. Motion carried with none opposed.

Planning Board Budget

BOS Chairman Jack O'Reilly made a motion that the Planning Board budget in the amount of \$39,250 be accepted; motion seconded by Kay Akerley.

Alfred Smith noted that the Master Plan amount of \$5,000 had not been used in the last 3 years and questioned the necessity of retaining it in the budget. PB Chairman Frink responded and explained that the amount is set aside for consulting fees to rewrite plans that are contracted out. Tom Morgan mentioned that the Master Plan process is a long one and previously took 7 years to write. Kay Akerley asked why Tom Morgan was not working on the Master Plan and Marlon Frink replied that it would take too much time away from his job. Akerley then asked how \$5,000 could be enough money for the time that seems to be required. Frink said that the job is done in steps and the amount was all that was needed to begin the process. Tom Morgan added that the Master Plan is a necessity for the Town in that it creates guidance for zoning ordinances. PB Chairman Frink further added that the Master Plan also helps to legally support issues.

NEWINGTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 9, 2002

BUDCOM Chairman Smith noted that the Advertising and Engineering expenditures for 2001 were much less than the budgeted amounts, yet the proposed 2002 budget requests for these items were still high. Marlon Frink asked that new budget committee members be aware that the Planning Board is often reimbursed for engineering services. Smith then brought attention to the notes attached to the Budget Proposal that addressed Advertising and Engineering as follows:

Engineering/Technical Consulting: Most engineering costs incurred for plan reviews and roadway inspections are reimbursable by the subdivision and site plan applicants.

Advertising consists of public hearing notices and abutter notification, most which is reimbursed by applicants. Costs may be substantial due to extensive notification required for Pease projects where as many as 320 abutters require notification.

The Chairman called for a vote and the motion to accept a Planning Board budget in the amount of \$39, 250 carried with none opposed.

Sewer Commission Budget

Leslie Brock made a motion to accept the Sewer Commission budget in the amount of \$567,476; motion seconded by Dick Spinney.

Kay Akerley asked if the proposal for salaries was for 3 Board members, 1 Secretary, and a Treasurer. Sewer Commission member George Fletcher said yes.

Smith asked why the Maintenance proposal was down from 2001 and George Fletcher said the Commission had overspent that line last year. Kay Akerley wondered why, if the commission overspent last year, that they felt they didn't need the funds anymore. Fletcher replied that he felt confident the funds requested were sufficient. Akerley questioned funds for computer supplies as she was unaware the sewer commission had one. Fletcher said there was one in the Sewer Commission's Town Office.

BUDCOM Chairman Smith asked if there was a set price for sludge disposal. George Fletcher said there was a price increase in November. Smith also asked if the power plant would have an impact on the budget. Fletcher didn't believe it would.

NEWINGTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 9, 2002

Budget Committee member Dick Spinney and Sewer Commission member Fletcher discussed what is involved in the Local Limits Study. Fletcher explained that you go into the Limits and study what is being dumped into the plant, such as copper and lead; whatever is in the sludge gets tested. Spinney asked if the \$3,600 was just for what the Sewer Commission would do and Fletcher said no.

Kay Akerley questioned the Contingency Fund. Fletcher said that a drill bit had to be purchased, River Road had to be fenced in due to 9-11, and they had to buy a rotor due to worn gear. They need to have a spare so the plant will always be running. Locks and miscellaneous items also had to be purchased.

BUDCOM member Dennis Acton questioned the price of sludge disposal. Dick Spinney and George Fletcher agreed that the price always goes up. Fletcher described how the sludge is disposed of and about the composted by-product, and why metal studies are done. George Fletcher said that money could be saved if there was a dryer to remove moisture from the sludge. There is less cost if there is less moisture because fees are based on weight. Fletcher added that they have at least 2 truckloads per month. There continued to be more discussion on this process.

Following Dick Spinney's question as to if Neslab was on Sewer (Fletcher said yes), BUDCOM Chairman Smith asked if there were any further questions. Kay Akerley thanked Fletcher for explaining what the Sewer Commission does and said she had a better understanding.

The Chairman called for a vote to accept the Sewer Commission Budget in the amount of \$567,476. Motion carried; none opposed. O'Reilly made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dick Spinney. Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M Newcomer
Administrative Assistant