

## NEWINGTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes  
January 14, 2004

Present: Budget Committee Members, Alfred Smith (Chairman), Dennis Acton, Jack Anderson, Kay Akerley, Leslie Brock, Candice Cantaloupo, Laura Coleman, Gail Pare

Board of Selectmen Representative Jack O'Reilly, AA Gillespie, Sewer Commission Representatives Ruth Fletcher, George Fletcher and Robert Hart, Planning Board Representative Albert Hislop, Town Planner Tom Morgan

The Budget Committee Chairman Alfred Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to review the budgets of the Sewer Commission and the Planning Board.

Budget Committee Member, Kay Akerley made the motion to accept the minutes of the January 7, 2004 meeting. The motion was seconded by Budget Committee Member, Laura Coleman. Motion carried with none opposed.

### **Planning Board**

Selectmen O'Reilly made the motion to accept the Planning Board Budget in the amount of \$113,774. The motion was seconded by Budget Committee Member, Gail Pare.

Chairman Smith explained that the amount of \$46,100 is the amount requested by the Planning Board. The difference of \$67,674 is the amount requested by the Board of Selectmen for the Planner's salary and benefits. The two amounts are combined under account 4191, to be reported on the State's MS-7 report. Laura Coleman asked if the salary line included the longevity pay. AA Gillespie stated that it did. Ms. Coleman asked how much the cost of living increase will be this year. Selectmen O'Reilly explained the Board of Selectmen recommended a 3% increase, based on the Consumer Price Index for the Northeast Region. Ms. Coleman asked how the Planner's salary was calculated. Selectmen O'Reilly explained the cost of living is based on salary only, it is not figured on longevity or benefits. Chairman Smith stated that he was happy to see that there had been effort spent on the Master Plan. Planning Board Chairman, Albert Hislop said that the Master Plan had been worked on 2-3 nights a month in the last year. Town Planner, Tom Morgan stated that the Planning Board hopes for a completion by mid-December. Gail Pare asked if printing of the Master Plan is included in the printing line. Tom Morgan stated that the printing of the Master Plan will be paid for out of the Master Plan line. The printing line is basically for the printing of the Zoning Ordinance Books.

Chairman Smith called for a vote to accept the Planning Board Budget in the amount of \$113,774. Motion carried with none opposed.

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### Sewer Commission

Gail Pare made the motion to accept the Sewer Commission Budget in the amount of \$549,488. The motion was seconded by Laura Coleman.

Chairman Smith explained for the new members of the Budget Committee, that the Sewer Commission's Budget does not affect the Town's taxes. These expenditures are off-set by the revenue generated by the sewer plant through user fees. He added that because the Sewer District is within the Town - the RSAs state that the Budget Committee must review the Sewer District's Budget. The Sewer District Budget is appropriated and placed on the MS-7. The appropriation allows the Sewer District to spend their budget.

Kay Akerley pointed out that since the year 2000 the salaries have increased from \$1,500 to \$2,100 for the three commissioners, the treasurer and the secretary. Commissioner George Fletcher stated that since 2000 there have only been two raises. Kay Akerley said that she felt that people that get paid a stipend should not receive a raise. She added that a stipend is a set amount. Commissioner Fletcher stated that he felt the \$300 increases are justified because of the hard work and the amount of time involved in what the sewer commission does. Laura Coleman said that she felt that everyone working on these boards deserves a raise, considering everything they go through and everything they do. She pointed out how hard it is to get people interested in working on the different committees and commissions. Selectmen O'Reilly reemphasized the point that this budget does not affect the Town's tax rate. This budget is paid for by user fees. Chairman Smith stated that the profile of the Town is changing and growing, which is having a direct effect on the amount of work that all the commissions, committees and departments are responsible for.

Chairman Smith noted that the Operations Contract is increased by about 3%. Commissioner Fletcher stated that the contract has not been negotiated yet. He hopes to bring it in at about 2.5% to 2.75%. Kay Akerley asked where the sludge is being disposed of. Commissioner Fletcher explained that it is being transported to Belfast, Maine. It is used in the manufacturing of a compost mixture along with vegetable matter. He added that the Sludge Disposal is one of the most important items on the budget, because if the plant is unable to disposal of the sludge it would have to close down. Commissioner Fletcher reported that the commission had an energy audit done on the treatment plant, pumping station and the head works. They replaced and updated lighting by getting a \$2,000 grant from PSNH. He said that hopefully by decreasing the electric bill on the plant, they will be able to decrease the operations contract. The operations contract includes the electric bills.

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Chairman Smith called for a vote to accept the Sewer Commission Budget in the amount of \$549,488. Motion carried with none opposed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. by Gail Pare. The motion was seconded by Laura Coleman. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Gillespie  
Administrative Assistant