

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Town of Newington - Town Hall
February 4, 2006

Present: Chairman Alfred Smith, Russ Cooke, Dick Spinney, Larry Wahl, Gail Klanchesser, Candice Cantelupo, Dennis Acton, Rick Stern, Leslie Brock (at 1:00), Selectmen Rep Jack O'Reilly, Selectman Jan Stuart, Selectman Chairman Cos Iocovozzi, Mike Goot, Jane Mazeau, Ruth Fletcher, Peg Lamson, George Fletcher, Laura Coleman, Barbara McDonald, Vincent Frank, Cliff Abbott, Charlie Smart, and Gail Pare.

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Gail Klanchesser moved to accept the Board of Selectmen 2006 budget request in the amount of \$1,666,575.00. **Dennis Acton seconded motion.**

Salaries

Larry Wahl asked about the salary line and what it consisted of. Jack O'Reilly stated that this was various stipends: Trustee of Trust Fund, Selectmen, Supervisor Check List, Moderator, Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Board of Fire Engineers, Health Officer and the Road Agent this all adds up to \$32,275.00. Chairman Smith stated that the cost of living is at 4.7% but the increase is over 20 in the wage line. The Chairman wanted to know if there was an increase in hours. Jack O'Reilly answered by saying that Cyndi Gillespie is helping out with the financial side of things, the part time receptionist pay was increased by one dollar. There was a question raised as to how the health, dental, life and disability went down. Jack O'Reilly answered by saying that when the previous Administrative Assistant left and she had a multiple person plan where as the new AA does not have the family plan.

Dick Spinney asked why the Board of Selectmen's pay increased. Jack O'Reilly stated that other towns have a Town Administrator or Town Manager form of government, whereas here in Newington, the Board is involved day to day.

There was a question asked about vehicle fuel and if the amount listed covered all the town vehicles. Jack O'Reilly said no, that the amount listed is for the car used primarily by Code Enforcement and for the truck Rick uses.

The town Clerks budget went up due to the training that the Deputy Clerk/Tax Collector will be starting in 06.

There was a question in regards to the different lawyers and what all they do. Upton takes care of power plants and facilities issues and challenges. Loughlin is the planning expert. Ratigan deals with land issues. Atkin is a Washington noise expert. McNeil is the town lawyer. Mulvey is the secondary town lawyer. The Coalition is no longer being used. The Coakley line takes care of the landfill.

There were questions as to why the Bldg Admin budget was increased. Rick does more than just work around the Town Hall he also so helps Lenny and he also built the ramp to the library and we hoped to replace tables in the Auditorium.

Jack O'Reilly stated that back door at the library needs to be replaced.

The Meeting House needs work to help preserve it as its history not only is important locally but also nationally.

Fire Station maintenance budget increased due to the fact that they are looking to have the doors raised and new security put in.

The Police Station had an increase in maintenance for work on the area where they park the cruisers.

Stone School needs new plywood to cover windows.

Under Regional Assoc, there was a question raised as to the Fire Fighters line. Jack O'Reilly stated that it was a 2005 request that should have been removed for this year.

Code Enforcement brought in close to \$74,000.00 last year which Chairman Smith stated that this is close to being a wash.

Jack O'Reilly mentioned that there is grant money anticipated in the Emergency Management line. Larry Wahl stated that he had a very strong feeling about the generator cost being under estimated. Charlie Smart will get together with the Chiefs to double check the figures and if need be, bring new numbers in for the Public Hearing Feb 11.

The transfer station put in for an increase for the attendant. The cost of trash pick up increased, as did hazardous waste day in Portsmouth. There was discussion on the disposal of electronics and how they now have a company that will accept electronics nearby at Pease.

Mosquito control has increased due to the West Nile and Triple E virus protection plan.

There was a brief discussion on the tennis courts and playground and what all is going on with those two such as the lighting projection at the Tennis Courts planned for 2006.