

Newington Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, November 23, 2009
6:00pm Town Hall

Chr. Jack O'Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Chairman Jack O'Reilly, Selectmen Jan Stuart, Cosmas Iocovozzi (*arriving at 6:16*), Gail Pare – Chr Historical District Commission; Justin Richardson – Chr Conservation Commission; Denis Hebert – Chr Planning Board Tom Morgan Planner; Blake Staude Chr Langdon Library Trustees and Dot Noseworthy Trustee; Rick Stern – Chr Cemetery Committee and Charlie Brewster member; Skip Cole and Tim Field members of the Sewer Commission; Peter MacDonald – Chr of the Recreation Committee and Keith Frizzell, Darryl Brown and Brian Haberstroh members and AA Beatrice Marconi.

Historical District Commission - \$ 17,849

- CLG line will be off set by the grant if the town's project is awarded which would be finishing up the Rail Road Station National Register documents and archeological digs at Fox Point. Selectman Stuart was concerned that this may be a repeat of an effort done previously.
- Special Projects is for the Cannons and Ms. Pare hopes to encumber any unspent funds from 2009 to help pay for this. *Selectman Stuart moved to recommend \$ 17,849 to the Budget Committee. Selectman O'Reilly seconded and the motion passed 2-0.*

Planning Board - \$ 138,330

- Bottom line indicates a decrease of 4% excluding personnel costs.
- Survey needs – Denis spoke of the boundary markers and survey of the land off Shattuck being given to the Town and the public hearings required as part of the process.
- Master Plan is done less a few minor changes. Will be downloadable and on disk at Library.
- Sign Directory – Approx \$ 8,000 will be needed in an effort to place them in key locations to substantially decrease the number of trucks on residential roads looking for certain businesses. They hope the Town to fund the need in the Highway Sign line and eventually have the businesses pay. Chr. O'Reilly noted that now that the Master Plan is complete, perhaps we can revitalize the CIP program. *Selectman Stuart moved to recommend \$ 138,330 to the Budget Committee. Selectman Iocovozzi seconded and the motion passed 3-0.*

Langdon Library - \$98,270

Dot Noseworthy pointed that their budget request is down .14 from 2009.

- Salary Line – The director works 30 hours a week and they are asking for \$230 more to cover a floater for sicknesses, etc. Built in is a 1.75% merit increase as they do not have a step system. The Trustees pay half for benefits.
 - Equipment line is going up from \$1,000 to \$ 10,000 to cover mostly shelving in an effort to make better use of space – which is a 3 to 5 yr plan.
- Ms. Noseworthy felt the 2009 budget may be over with the roof repairs and ADA compliance mandates however Chr. O'Reilly felt the ADA requirements should be paid for by the Town. Selectman Iocovozzi disagreed. Mid December the Library Trustees will have a better picture. Selectman Stuart praised the staff at the Library *and moved to recommend \$ 98,270 to the Budget Committee. Selectman Iocovozzi seconded. Motion passed 3-0.*

Conservation Commission - \$ 14,701

Chr. Justin Richardson noted that their budget request is down by \$ 1,599. He notes that they have not budgeted for the completion of the Fox Point Conservation Easement however they are working on a forestry management plan. They ask that the Selectmen encumber all that is left over for use in 2010 as the wetlands issue continues with the PDA. Regarding the warrant article to fund the existing cap res for future purchase of land, Justin felt \$ 25,000 would do.

Selectman Iocovozzi moved to recommend \$ 14,701 to the Budget Committee and Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Sewer Commission - \$ 647,600

The request is down about \$ 42,286 from last year.

- Stipends – No change
- Fire Alarm Box Conversion – Will cost around \$ 1,400 to convert to a radio box. Mr. Fields felt it should be done now as recommended by the Fire Department.

Selectman Iocovozzi moved to recommend \$ 647,600 to the Budget Committee and Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Recreation Committee - \$ 56,100 - Amended to \$ 53,625

- Summer Program – They are expecting same number of participants however this program is off set slightly with an annual refund from the YMCA for minimal attendance.
- September Fest – The Selectmen asked if they could concentrate on lowering the costs in any way. Selectman Stuart asked if they could seek out volunteers like for providing food.
- General Maintenance – Ball field maintenance is annual and they resurfaced the Basket Ball Court this year. Also purchased was playground equipment for behind Old Town Hall. Chr. O'Reilly would like the Recreation Committee to request a level budget for 2010. Keith Frizzell went on to talk about the vouchers system, the summer program and the movie ticket lines are all estimates and felt reaching a level budget would not be difficult. Movie tickets sales exceeded the 2009 funding line. There is \$ 19,000 in the Rec Facilities Maint Cap Res.

Selectman Stuart moved to recommend \$53,625 to the Budget Committee and Selectman Iocovozzi seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Rec will let the AA know which lines will be effected.

Cemetery Committee - \$ 19,430

- Rogue Burial Grounds – State mandates that the Town must maintain the 11ish around town - which would be to cut grass and secure per Selectman Iocovozzi.
- Wages – dropped from \$ 1,000 to \$ 500.
- Stipend – Mr. Stern would like to see the Stipend line increase from \$500 to \$1,000 due to the amount of work and how the position has evolved over the years.
- Flags – The Cemetery Committee Trustees care for the Flag detail on the lots.

Selectman Iocovozzi moved to recommend \$19,430 to the Budget Committee. Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Fox Point Rental House Demolition

Chr. O'Reilly asked the Board to reconsider the demo vote. Selectman Iocovozzi wanted to continue to think about this as although the thoughts of those in attendance at the meeting a few weeks ago were in favor of leaving it up, he was thinking long term. Selectman Stuart wants the

Board to face the issue tonight. Selectman O'Reilly has researched the issue and has changed his mind and therefore if the vote was this evening, he would vote to recind the motion to demolish.

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Police 50/50 grant for Speed Sign

After a brief discussion, the Board saw no objections to this grant and asked that the Police Commissioner sign the documents. It is understood that the town's 50% is coming out of funds left over in the Police's 2009 budget.

Seacoast Local Proclamation

The Selectmen voted to sign the proclamation declaring the first week in December as Seacoast Local week.

Birch Tree Raffle at Texas Road House

The Board voted to waive special events fee and did not object to this raffle however asked that Chief Tretter sign off on it.

Caremark Prescription Benefit Cost Reduction

The Board discussed this issue at length indicating that the 2010 health cost increase of 16.4% was very high and wanted to find an avenue to be pro-active to reduce this cost down from 16.4% to 10.6%. However they wanted the input from the employees before they sign on. The AA was asked to contact the Chiefs and employees for their thoughts and input. It is the prescription plan rider that is being reviewed.

Selectman Iocovozzi moved to adjourn at 8:00pm. Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectively Submitted,

***Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant***