

**Town of Newington, NH
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2013- Town Hall
7:00pm**

Call to Order: Chair John Lamson called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Present: John Lamson, VC Gail Klanchesser, Cosmas Iocovozzi, David Mueller, Janis Marconi, Michael Marconi, Leila Richardson, Gail Pare, Sandra Sweeney, Jack O'Reilly and Martha Roy was also present.

September 18 Minutes/Agendas/E-Mails Review: The Committee reviewed the minutes of September 18 and the future agendas of the Committee. The minutes will reflect a last name initial for Gail Pare and Gail Klanchesser to distinguish between each other's comments. Sandra Sweeney's name was corrected in the document. David Mueller's e-mail address needed to be corrected for all distributions.

Gail K moved to accept the corrected minutes of September 18, 2013. Gail P seconded and all were in favor save Jack O'Reilly who abstained as he was not yet a member of the Committee at that time.

Employee Wages/Salaries 2013 and 2014: The Committee requested the detailed wages/salaries of each Town employee for 2013 and proposed for 2014 along with each department's step schedule. They also requested the hours each employee generally works.

Organization of Budget Forms: The Budget Committee discussed the format of the presented budgets and would like a column showing the Board of Selectmen's column, Recommended to Budget Committee column and should there be a discrepancy columns could be added to state: Next Year Requested, and Next Year Approved.

Cemetery Budget: Gail K moved to tentatively recommend the Cemetery budget of \$36,815, seconded by Gail P.

Cosmas explained that the Cemetery had become infested with grubs in certain locations and they needed to be treated. This is a 3-4 year program and then the Committee will see the budget drop back down. Leila asked what the product that was being used to eradicate the grubs was. Cosmas replied that while he was not familiar with the name it was an approved chemical by the State. She further asked if signs would be posted when the chemical was sprayed and

Cosmas replied that they would. A member suggested that this could be posted as to when the spraying was going to take place in the Town newsletter.

Mike asked where the first treatment would take place and Cosmas replied it would be inside the fenced area.

John replied that the Cemetery had not been using the Cemetery Trust funds for years plus the general trust fund for cemetery lots. He also reminded everyone that per State law the town's cemeteries must be maintained.

Mike asked what the cost of a lot was and Cosmas replied that it was \$300 currently. He stated this could be for one person or two cremations.

Jack asked if the Cemetery mowing will be placed out to bid next year and Cosmas replied that it would be.

Cosmas stated that there were 11 acres that needed to be treated on the other side of the ball field. Cosmas stated that they were starting with the area inside the fence and would be working to other areas eventually.

Vote was taken to tentatively recommend the Cemetery budget. All were in favor.

John asked if the Town had a Procurement policy in place. Cosmas stated that the Town tries to get three bids for items but many times can only achieve two.

Sewer Budget Review:

Gail K moved to tentatively recommend the Sewer budget in the amount of \$836,052. Gail P seconded the motion.

Jack asked about the \$100,000 EPA mandated upgrade to the facility. George explained that the pipes were getting older. They are on average 30 years old and need to be cleaned or replaced. This is required by the EPA.

George stated that the nitrogen level was at over 8% currently. Their goal is to aim for 8 mg/L but that it varies into the 20's. They would like to get the nitrogen level down to between 5-8%. They are saving funds for an expensive upgrade that will be required at some point in the future.

George told the Committee that they had submitted an application to the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) for financial help. This could be a savings of \$9 million if it is awarded to Newington. George stated they are first on the list currently. The funds come from the federal government to the State

and then to the cities and towns. He explained that much of the plant would be all new to meet the requirements of DES.

Vote was taken to tentatively recommend the Sewer budget. All were in favor.

Recreation Budget:

Gail K moved to tentatively recommend the Recreation budget of \$51,550 seconded by Sandra.

Diana Moulton and Keith Frizzell represented the Recreation Commission. Keith explained the Summer YMCA Program that ran 4 days of the week for Newington residents' children. It operated out of the Old Town Hall. The fees were \$400 per child or \$600 per family. The Committee asked for a revenue report of this program as well as other departments.

Gail P asked why the Septemberfest amount was still at the higher amount. Keith explained that they are hoping to expand Septemberfest next year given that it was such a success in its expanded form this year. The Budget Committee consensus was that everyone did an excellent job.

Keith went on to state that the Recreation Committee was going to purchase two grills due to the rentals of the past not working at critical times. The budget was not completely spent also due to the Holiday party.

Vote was taken to tentatively recommend the Recreation budget. All were in favor.

Historic District Commission-

Gail K moved to tentatively recommend the Historic District Commission budget of \$16,325. Michael seconded.

Gail P discussed one of the special projects that the Commission has next year which is framing the Veterans Honor Roll and updating the paper listing periodically.

HDC will be taking ownership of the new sign that is planned for the corner of Little Bay Road and Nimble Hill Road. It is in the planning stages currently.

John asked that a presentation be made to the committees involved: HDC, Cemetery, Library and possibly Conservation.

Jack complimented Gail P on the Memorials in the Historic District.

Gail P also mentioned that they will be working on getting a Certified Local Government grant for an inventory of Historical properties in town for next year, (2014-2015).

Vote was taken to tentatively recommend the HDC budget and all were in favor.

Cosmas stated that the Board has been asking all departments to keep their budgets to a bare minimum due to several large expenses the town will face in 2014 and 2015. A revaluation is planned for next year also.

Adjournment:

Michael moved to adjourn, seconded by Jack at 8:21pm with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Martha S. Roy, Town Administrator