

Newington Budget Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2012
7:00pm Town Hall

Chr. J. Lamson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Present: Chairman John Lamson, Vice Chair Gail Klanchesser, Jan Stuart filling in as Selectmen's Rep for Jack O'Reilly, School Board Rep Dave Mueller, Sandy Sweeney, Gail Pare, Janis Marconi, Michael Marconi, Mary Crossley, Representing the Planning Board – Chr. Denis Hebert; Representing the Sewer Commission- Chr. George Fletcher, Commissioner Skip Cole, Sewer Clerk Ruth Fletcher; Langdon Library Trustees Steve Bush, Guptil Knox, Lee Lamson, Melissa Prefontaine, Library Director Scott Campbell; in the audience- Selectman Rick Stern; and Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi. *(absent Jack O'Reilly).*

Minute Approval: *G Pare moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by S. Sweeney. Motion passed 7-0-2 with VC Klanchesser and Selectmen's Rep Jan Stuart abstaining.*

Sewer Commission 2013 Budget Request of \$ 702,497: *VC Klanchesser moved to tentatively recommend the Sewer Commission budget of \$ 702,497. G. Pare seconded. Passed 9-0 after discussion.* Chr. George Fletcher presented.

- Operations Contract – A new operations contract was negotiated with Utility Partners being awarded. Was not low bid as that proposal lacked a strong number of trainers.
- Engineering – Increased from \$30,000 to \$100,000. As suggested by the EPA, the Commission will hire a firm to conduct a review of the plant to see what needs to be done regarding nitrate mandate concerns.
- Legal – G Pare asked if this was nitrate affiliated however, it has to do with collections of past due accounts.
- Year End Surplus – Chr. Fletcher indicated that left over funds could be dedicated to future expansion needs.
- Major Maintenance - Is down. Chr. Fletcher stated that by year's end, 2/3 of the system video project will be complete and repair of the pipes continue.
- Subsidiary Tank - Chr. Fletcher noted that they do have another tank which needs to be treated but may be utilized to help with lowering nitrates.
- C.O.L.A. – 1.7% for 2013 which applies to stipends for the Commissioners.

Chr. Lamson then called for the vote, which passed 9-0.

Planning Board 2013 Budget Request of \$ 168,966: *G. Pare moved to tentatively recommend the Planning Board budget of \$ 168,966. VC Klanchesser seconded. Passed 9-0 after discussion.* Chr. Denis Hebert presented.

- Legal - Chr. Hebert indicated that legal needs may be on the rise with increases in projects throughout the town. There was a discussion about the Selectmen's general legal funding area, however Denis explained that Planning historically had their own legal line but could go to the Selectmen if the need arose.
- Directory Sign – Originally \$13,000 had been placed in their 2013 budget request but the Selectmen suggested to hold off on the sign for now.
- Engineering Fees – This line needs to be funded, however the applicant is billed and the money then placed in the general fund as revenue.
- Secretarial Wages – Chr. Hebert felt this line will be reviewed by the Planning Board with a potential of a wage increase.
- C.O.A.S.T. – Denis feels this really should not fall under the Planning Board's budget as it is more a town or Selectmen's item. There was a brief discussion about the risk of it being a warrant article each year. However, he added that since it was not discussed at the Selectmen's level, no need to move it this year. ***Chr. Lamson then called for the vote, which passed 9-0.***

Langdon Library 2013 Budget Request of \$ 151,195: *G. Pare moved to tentatively recommend the Langdon Library budget of \$ 151,195. S. Sweeney seconded. Passed 8-0-1 after discussion.* Chr. Steve Bush presented.

- Budget Increase – Mainly due to personnel fixed costs affiliated with going from part time to full time. Last year was a partial year for full time. This year is budgeted for 12 months.
- Web Hosting – In the future, this service will not be donated as it is right now.
- Trust Fund Income – Steve explained that the Library Trustees have and continue to evolve researching with legal and the DRA on what needs to be done to bring all aspects into compliance. The \$1,000 annual donation will recorded slightly different next year whereas it will be booked as revenue to offset their budget.
- Library addition/renovation bond – Melissa has contacted the DRA on a public hearing date for their bond (in excess of \$100,000) which will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2013. Chr. Lamson encouraged the budget committee members to attend if at all possible as they will be recommending (or not) on the Town's warrant. Approximately \$300,000 is needed for the repairs if incorporated into the bond for the addition. Costs would substantially go up if addressed as separate projects. Newington Library usage statistics show that we are ranked 16th in the state. The addition is designed with growth in mind. The 3,500 sq feet request should sustain the Library for at least 50 years. More than likely 4 or 5 warrant articles will be presented to the Selectmen and Budget Committee. The plans are on line and are at the Library for viewing.

Chr. Lamson then called for the vote to tentatively recommend \$151,195 which passed 8-0-1 with G. Klanchesser abstaining.

At 7:55pm, G. Pare moved to adjourn. Seconded by everyone. Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant