

**Newington Budget Committee Meeting Minute
Wednesday, January 2, 2013 7:00:pm Town Hall**

Chr. John Lamson called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

Present: Chairman Lamson, VC Gail Klanchesser, Gail Pare, School Rep Dave Mueller, Michael Marconi, filling in as Selectmen's Rep was Selectman Rick Stern; Representing the Police Department were Commissioner Doug Ross and Jack Hoyt along with Police Chief Tretter, Representing the Cemetery Committee was Cosmas Iocovozzi and also present was the Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi.
(absent: Jack O'Reilly, Sandy Sweeney, Janis Marconi and Mary Crossley)

Chairman Lamson called for a moment of silence in memory of Cemetery Committee member Cliff Abbott and then spoke fondly of his dedication to the Town of Newington and Cemetery efforts.

Minute Approval: *G. Pare moved to accept with M. Marconi seconding.* G. Klanchesser pointed out a scribe's error under Library vote count as written and ***with that amendment, the minutes passed.***

Cemetery Committee 2013 Budget Request of \$ 21,400: *VC G. Klanchesser moved to tentatively recommend the Cemetery Committee's budget of \$ 21,400. Dave Mueller seconded. Passed 6-0 after the following discussion.* Cosmas Iocovozzi presented.

- Wages was the main reason for the budget increase as the Stipend was increased to \$2,500 (mainly for the amount of Administrative work Mr. Abbott had done). Because there is no Sexton, at the suggestion of the Selectmen, that \$2,500 was moved up to the wage line. Mr. Iocovozzi noted that the Committee will probably be hiring a person to gather the records and set up files at Town Hall. This transformation of the records will be as a continuation of Mr. Abbott's efforts. Cos also spoke of keeping the Cemetery accessible year round.
- Care of trees is yet to be paid for.
- Interest earned from Trust Funds could offset the annual budget if the interest income could go towards grounds care or such. S. Stern spoke of the perpetual care accounts' structure can only be changed by the court. About 16 years ago, the general maintenance account was set up but to gain access to that account, that would have to go before the voters at town meeting.
- Niche Memorial for Cremations – Committee may put in a Warrant Article to establish a fund to go to it's construction. It would be like a wall. It was suggested to see if use of the existing Cemetery Cap Res could be utilized for this purpose.

With that being said, ***Chr. Lamson called for the vote which passed 6-0.***

Police Department 2013 Budget Request of \$ 1,375,181: *VC G. Klanchesser moved to tentatively recommend the Police budget of \$ 1,375,181. M. Marconi seconded. Passed 6-0 after discussion.* The Commissioners and Chief presented the budget.

Commissioner Ross began the discussion stating that they try very hard to present a budget that continues to provide the quality of safety and service to the people of Newington at an affordable cost. He feels that once again they have accomplished this goal.

- Salary Line – Not being totally expended, Chief Tretter explained that this is due to multiple disability absences. As a result, Overtime and Part time wages is over. C.O.L.A. was 1.7% and a couple of people got steps.
- Fuel – State cost per gallon was set at \$ 3.09 for 2013. They drove 6,000 less in 2012.
- Vehicle purchase – Because of low mileage on those cruisers generally due to be replaced, they decided to wait a year. When the purchase is due to occur, the Chief is considering SUVs because of their height, stability and room.

The budget is pretty much level except for those costs beyond the town's control like retirement and other personnel costs. May purchase ballistic shields down the road. The group spoke of the tragedy in Connecticut and asked if precautions were being discussed for school safety. The answer was yes. The Police, School Board and SAU 50 were going to review our set up and make improvements where necessary.

- Police Communications Capital Reserve – Chief Tretter plans on asking the Selectmen to consider placing \$15,000 in it this year. G. Pare noted that perhaps that could be increased with the town not purchasing cruisers this year. Chf. Tretter felt \$15,000 was ample.

The motion to adjourn came at 7:50pm. Motion passed 6-0 and the meeting was closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant