

Town of Newington, NH
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 25, 2017 Town Hall

Chair John Lamson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Present: John Lamson - Chair, Brandon Arsenault - Vice Chair, Gail Pare, Sandra Sweeney, Alan Wilson, Jennifer Kent Weiner, James Belanger, Rick Stern, Cosmas Iocovozzi - Selectman.

Absent: Katherine Latchaw, David Mueller - School Board

Guests: Leonard Thomas - Road Agent, Jan Stuart- Selectman, Mike Marconi- Selectman, Andy Head - Fire Chief, Jeff Leduc - Assistant Fire Chief, Darin Sabine - Chair, Board of Fire Engineers, Ruth Fletcher - Fire Engineer, Jim Fabrizio- Fire Engineer, Victoria Eversman - Recording Secretary and Martha Roy, Town Administrator.

Review of Minutes from January 18, 2017: G. Pare moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2017. R. Stern seconded the motion. Vote: 9-0-1 (S. Sweeney abstained).

Highway Budget Review:

R. Stern moved to tentatively approve the Highway Department budget of \$453,520. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. Deliberations ensued about the town taking ownership of Fox Run Road and Woodbury Ave, the Resurfacing line, engineering, and purchasing a used tractor. A request was made to add further details to line item 300 Contracted Services. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Highway Department Budget of \$453,520. All were in favor.

Town General Government Budget Review:

Executive Office

G. Pare moved to tentatively approve the Executive Office budget of \$341,077. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. Discussions ensued regarding salaries, benefits, engineering services, actuarial expense, equipment leases, computer expenses and year-end encumbrance. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Executive Office Budget of \$341,077. All were in favor.

Elections and Registrations:

R. Stern moved to tentatively approve the Elections and Registrations budget of \$10,765. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. Discussion regarding a tabulating voting box ensued. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Elections and Registrations budget of \$10,765. All were in favor.

Tax Collector/Town Clerk:

R. Stern moved to tentatively approve the Tax Collector/Town Clerk budget of \$52,700. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Tax Collector/Town Clerk budget of \$52,700. All were in favor.

Finance & Assessing:

G. Pare moved to tentatively approve the Finance & Assessing budget of \$204,100. R. Stern seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding abatement cases, legal costs and expert witness fees. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Finance & Assessing budget of \$204,100. All were in favor.

Legal:

R. Stern moved to tentatively approve the Legal budget of \$187,501. G. Pare seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding Sprague tax abatement. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Legal budget of \$187,501. All were in favor.

Town Buildings Administration:

R. Stern moved to tentatively approve the Town Buildings Administration budget of \$41,564. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding cleaning services. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Town Buildings Administration budget of \$41,564. All were in favor.

Town Hall:

R. Stern moved to tentatively approve the Town Hall budget of \$38,500. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding water, maintenance, and electricity. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Town Hall budget of \$38,500. All were in favor.

Town Garage:

R. Stern moved to tentatively approve the Town Garage budget of \$15,240. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Town Garage budget of \$15,240. All were in favor.

Old Town Hall:

G. Pare moved to tentatively approve the Old Town Hall budget of \$28,400. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. Discussions ensued regarding repairing the window sills and detectors. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Old Town Hall budget of \$28,400. All were in favor.

Meeting House:

R. Stern moved to tentatively approve the Meeting House budget of \$13,600. G. Pare seconded the motion. Discussion was held about a security alarm. There currently is not one at the Meeting House. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Meeting House budget of \$13,600. All were in favor.

Fire Station:

G. Pare moved to tentatively approve the Fire Station budget of \$23,500. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Fire Station budget of \$23,500. All were in favor.

Police Station:

R. Stern moved to tentatively approve the Police Station budget of \$25,900. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Police Station budget of \$25,900. All were in favor.

Stone School:

G. Pare moved to tentatively approve the Stone School budget of \$2,350. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding fire alarm repairs and the building being weather proofed. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Stone School budget of \$2,350. All were in favor.

Old Parsonage:

G. Pare moved to tentatively approve the Old Parsonage budget of \$5,820. R. Stern seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Old Parsonage budget of \$5,820. All were in favor.

Insurance:

R. Stern moved to tentatively approve the Insurance budget of \$251,475. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. Deliberations ensued regarding bidding to private insurance companies. This has been done and determined that Primex, which pulls from a municipal pool, is the best deal.

J. Lamson called for a vote on the Insurance budget of \$251,475. All were in favor.

Regional Associations:

G. Pare moved to amend the Board of Selectmen's recommended amount back to the Department budget of \$10,167. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. Extensive discussion followed about sending a questionnaire to all associations, COAST bus and resident usage. **J. Lamson called for a vote on the amendment to the Regional Association budget. Four in favor (G. Pare, S. Sweeney, A. Wilson, J. Lamson), One abstention (J. Belanger) four opposed (R. Stern, B. Arsenault, J. Kent Weiner, C. Iocovozzi)**

J. Lamson called for a vote on the original Board of Selectman budget of \$7,117. Four in favor (R. Stern, J. Kent Weiner, B. Arsenault, C. Iocovozzi), Three opposed (G. Pare, S. Sweeney, J. Lamson), Two abstained (J. Belanger, A. Wilson) Motion carries.

Code Enforcement:

R. Stern moved to tentatively approve the Code Enforcement budget of \$113,625. G. Pare seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Code Enforcement budget of \$113,625. All were in favor.

Street Lighting:

G. Pare moved to tentatively approve the Street Lighting budget of \$22,000. R. Stern seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Street Lighting budget of \$22,000. Vote: 8-1 (J. Belanger opposed).

Transfer Station-Collection:

J. Kent Weiner moved to tentatively approve the Transfer Station - Collection budget of \$61,021. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding recycling, and possibly the need of a new dumpster or more frequent pick-ups to empty the dumpster. **J. Lamson called for a vote on the Transfer Station - Collection budget of \$61,021. All were in favor.**

Residential Waste Collection:

G. Pare moved to tentatively approve the Residential Waste Collection budget of \$84,590. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Residential Waste Collection budget of \$84,590. All were in favor.

Pest Control:

G. Pare moved to tentatively approve the Pest Control budget of \$40,000. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Pest Control budget of \$40,000. All were in favor.

Welfare:

G. Pare moved to tentatively approve the Welfare budget of \$2,000. R. Stern seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Welfare budget of \$2,000. All were in favor.

Land Management:

R. Stern moved to tentatively approve the Land Management budget of \$56,751. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. Discussions ensued regarding Hydrant Rental and Gate Repair. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Land Management budget of \$56,751. All were in favor.

Debt Service:

R. Stern moved to tentatively approve the Debt Services budget of \$461,224. G. Pare seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding the Coakley landfill and the Library addition bond. J. Lamson called for a vote on the Debt Services budget of \$461,224. All were in favor.

Capital Outlay:

There were no dollars in the Capital Outlay budget. Discussions ensued regarding the need for a new Police cruiser for \$32,351 which is in the Police Department budget. This needs to be added to the Capital Outlay budget. R. Stern moved to tentatively approve the addition of \$32,351 dollars to the Capital Outlay budget for the purchase of a police cruiser. G. Pare seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Warrant Articles:

Deliberation ensued pertaining to the part time Fire Prevention Officer position for the Fire/Rescue Department in the amount of \$35,000. This is proposed to be 24 hours per week without retirement or other benefits. C. Iocovozzi explained that the Selectmen were in favor of adding this amount directly to the Fire Department budget rather than as a warrant article.

J. Lamson stated that he would entertain a motion to amend the Fire Department budget by \$35,000 under the salaries line. G. Pare moved to tentatively approve the addition of a part time Fire Prevention Officer position, in the amount of \$35,000, to the Fire Department's budget salaries line. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. All were in favor with B. Arsenault abstaining. The proposed warrant article for this part time position will be removed from the warrant.

New Firefighter/Firefighter Paramedic Position

J. Kent Weiner moved to recommend the warrant article to fund one new firefighter or Firefighter/Paramedic position, in the amount \$62,000, to the town. G. Pare seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Fire Department Union Collective Bargaining Agreement

G. Pare moved to recommend the Collective Bargaining Agreement warrant article, in the amount of \$14,656, to the town. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Replacement and/or repair of Vehicles Operated by the Fire Department

R. Stern moved to recommend the Replacement and/or repair of Vehicles Operated by the Fire Department capital reserve fund warrant article, in the amount of \$50,000, to the town. G. Pare seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Replacement and/or Major Repairs of Vehicles and equipment operated by the Highway Department

R. Stern moved to recommend the Replacement and/or Major Repairs of Vehicles and equipment operated by the Highway Department capital reserve fund warrant article, in the amount of

\$50,000, to the town. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Major Road Work Fund

R. Stern moved to recommend the Major Road Work capital reserve fund warrant article, in the amount of \$50,000, to the town. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Ripley Property Conservation Easement

G. Pare moved to recommend the Ripley Property Conservation Easement warrant article, in the amount of \$40,000, to the town. R. Stern seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Fire Department Communications

R. Stern moved to recommend the Fire Department Communications capital reserve fund warrant article, in the amount of \$35,000, to the town. G. Pare seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Municipal Building Emergency Repairs

S. Sweeney moved to recommend the Municipal Building Emergency Repairs capital reserve fund warrant article, in the amount of \$30,000, to the town. A. Wilson seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Conservation Fund

R. Stern moved to recommend the Conservation Fund warrant article, in the amount of \$30,000, to the town. J. Belanger seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Replacement of the Town Ambulance and any Major Medical Equipment

R. Stern moved to recommend the Replacement of the Town Ambulance and any Major Medical Equipment capital reserve fund warrant article, in the amount of \$10,000, to the town. G. Pare seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Town Generators Capital Reserve Fund

R. Stern moved to recommend the Town Generators Capital Reserve fund warrant article, in the amount of \$10,000, to the town. J. Belanger seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Replacement of Fire Department SCBA equipment

J. Kent Weiner moved to recommend the Replacement of Fire Department SCBA equipment capital reserve fund warrant article, in the amount of \$10,000, to the town. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Police Department Radio/Electronics Fund

R. Stern moved to recommend the Police Department Radio/Electronics Capital Reserve Fund warrant article in the amount of \$10,000, to the town. G. Pare seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Severance to Town Employees

R. Stern moved to recommend the Severance to Town Employees Trust Fund warrant article, in the amount of \$10,000, to the town. J. Belanger seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

Town Recreational Facilities and Equipment.

R. Stern moved to recommend the Town Recreational Facilities Capital Reserve Fund warrant article, in the amount of \$2,500, to the town. B. Arsenault seconded the motion. J. Lamson called for a vote. All were in favor.

C. Iocovozzi moved to adjourn at 9:36 PM. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Eversman
Recording Secretary**