Town of Newington, NH

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 2, 2015 Town Hall

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

**Present**: Chair John Lamson, Leila Richardson, Brandon Arsenault, Katherine Latchaw, Alan Wilson, David Mueller, School Board Representative, Rick Stern, Board of Selectmen Representative, Denis Messier, Sewer Plant Manager, Skip Cole and Justin Richardson, Sewer Commissioners, Steve Bush, Chair Library Trustees, Lillian Wilson and Lee Lamson, Library Trustees, Lara Croft, Library Director, Keith Frizzell and Chris Bellmare, Recreation Committee members, Jane Hislop, Co- Chair of the Conservation Commission, Jennifer Kent Weiner, and Martha Roy, Town Administrator.

**Absent**: Gail Klanchesser, Gail Pare, Sandra Sweeney

**Review of 9-30-15 Minutes: L. Richardson moved to approve the minutes of September 30, 2015. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Sewer Budget Review: D. Mueller moved to tentatively approve the Sewer budget of $861,054. R. Stern seconded the motion.** Denis Messier reviewed the budget with the Committee. The engine**e**ring contract for the refurbishment ends on April 30, 2016. An extension of the contract is needed and will be tied to the Consumer Price Index. The estimated project cost was originally $8.1 million. The cost has increased to 9.3 million and is going out to bid for construction in December. In the spring of 2016 construction will start. The Sewer Commission received a loan through the State Revolving Loan Fund. They will pay 1% on withdrawals as the project payments are made. 3.16% will be paid on the total principle when all of the funds are withdrawn. Construction will take 12-18 months. B. Arsenault asked if the outside services are covered under a new line. D. Messier stated that they are and that this has been separated out for 2016. B. Arsenault inquired about the excess spending in emergency repair. D. Messier reviewed the emergency pipe repair project that exceeded $40,000 and over expended the major maintenance line. The Commissioners stated that if the anticipated budget is over expended they will compensate by taking money out of the Enterprise fund.

**J. Lamson called for a vote on the Sewer budget and all were in favor of $861,054.**

**Vacant Position Appointment Interview: L. Richardson nominated Jennifer Kent Weiner to the Budget Committee. D. Mueller seconded the nomination.**

**Nominations were closed. J. Lamson called for a vote on the appointment of Jennifer Kent Weiner to the Budget Committee and all were in favor.**

**Library Budget Review: B. Arsenault moved to tentatively approve the Library budget of $177,255. L. Richardson seconded the motion.** S. Bush introduced the new Library Director, L. Croft. He reviewed the various positions at the Library explaining that there are 6 part time employees that work a total of 84 hours per week. It is the Library policy to keep two employees staffing the Library at all times. The Library is open 32 hours a week. L. Croft reviewed the new programs at the Library. Wages are increasing by $12,000. to allow for the 2 employee requirement and programming increase. L. Croft stated that there are approximately 30 patrons coming in to the Library each day they are open.

J. Kent Weiner asked if we charge for nonresidents. L. Croft responded that they are charged $25. per year. B. Arsenault questioned where shrinkage showed in the budget. L. Croft answered that it is such a small amount and so time consuming to collect it there aren’t any late fines. Only lost items are charged for.

J. Lamson asked for an update on the Trust funds. It was reported that approximately $432,000 has been given to the Town to be placed in an account for withdrawal of funds, to reduce the tax rate, over four years’ time and $32,000 is being placed in a Library maintenance fund.

**J. Lamson called for a vote on the Library budget and all were in favor of $177,255.**

D. Mueller noticed that there was a $1,000 difference in the NH Charitable Trust numbers between the budget that was originally submitted and the budget presented tonight by the Library. This will be discussed at a later time if necessary.

Recreat**ion Budget Review:** **L. Richardson moved to tentatively approve the Recreation budget of $51,050. K. Latchaw seconded the motion. K Frizzell** explained that the Septemberfest celebration had been over expended this year. They expect to cut the cost next year. The YMCA Summer Program used an intern this year, saving the Town money. L. Richardson asked about the voucher program. It was explained that this is for Newington residents to get paid back the difference between the resident and nonresident rate when attending out of town exercise programs. J. Lamson asked if there had been any thought to new programming. He suggested cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

**J. Lamson called for a vote on the Recreation budget and all were in favor of $51,050.**

**Conservation Commission Budget Review: B. Arsenault moved to tentatively approve the Conservation Commission budget of $7,962. D. Mueller seconded the motion.** J. Hislop pointed out that the Commission has dropped their legal fee amount, from $4,000 to $1,000. Community Education will continue at the library in 2016. They are looking for volunteers for beautification.

The Commission is working on the disposition of the old Town dump in the Town Forest and how or if they need to proceed with clean up. J. Hislop requested a warrant article to place $15,000. in the Conservation Fund be approved. R. Stern asked about how much land was coming out of current use. M. Roy will research this.

**J. Lamson called for a vote on the Conservation Commission budget and all were in favor of $7,962.**

D. Mueller moved to adjourn at 8:37pm, seconded by B. Arsenault with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha S. Roy

Town Administrator