**Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, December 3, 2014 Town Hall 7pm**

**Chr. Lamson called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.**

**Present:** Chairman John Lamson, VC Gail Klanchesser, Gail Pare, Michael Marconi, Sandra Sweeny, Leila Richardson, Brandon Arsenault, School Board Rep. David Mueller and Selectmen’s Rep. Rick Stern. Also present were Sewer Commissioners George Fletcher and Skip Cole, Sewer Plant Manager Denis Messier, as well as Town Administrator, Martha Roy,

**Sewer Commission Budget Review: G. Klanchesser moved to tentatively recommend the Sewer budget of $813,367. , G. Pare seconded.**

G. Pare asked about the Town services line and items that apply. It was explained that this line is for the work completed by other Town departments that are provided to the Sewer Department such as Sewer Accounts Payable Clerk services. Bond interest and principle were discussed. The Sewer Commission will not need principle or interest payments to be reflected in their budget this year as engineering work will be ongoing for 2015. G. Fletcher stated that excess funds at the end of the year are deposited in the Sewer Enterprise Fund. He stated that the Sewer bills are sent out to users in June and November. B Arsenault asked what the current total in the Enterprise Fund was. G. Fletcher responded that there was approximately 1.2 million currently in the Fund. J. Lamson requested the Sewer Commission provide a separate sheet showing the Fund transactions for 2014.

J. Lamson asked about the interest and where it is being invested. G. Fletcher answered that it is in a savings account at TD Bank. Discussion was held on the benefits of Certificates of Deposit as opposed to saving accounts. G. Fletcher discussed to have liquid assets for payment to the engineers.

Other discussion was held regarding abatements, Fox Run Mall meters and the potential for a regional plant at Pease in the future.

**J. Lamson called for a vote on the Sewer budget and all were in favor of $813,367.**

R. Stern gave the Committee an update regarding the Town’s tax rate, ongoing issues and concerns for the future. J. Lamson asked for a current breakdown of industrial, commercial and residential property values.

**Historic District Commission Budget Review: G. Klanchesser moved to tentatively recommend the Historic District budget of $14,058., M. Marconi seconded.**

G. Klanchesser noted that Operation Expenses line is under expended thus far in the year. G. Pare explained that it will reflect an over expended budget by year end. She elaborated on the Special projects that are planned for 2015. These include the Pow Wow and three metal signs for the Historic District which will update and correct older signs. B. Arsenault requested a breakdown of the Special Projects line. G. Pare replied that $300. was for purchase and install of signs and $300. for Pow Wow mailings and toilet facilities.

**J. Lamson called for a vote on the Historic District budget and all were in favor of $14,058.**

**Cemetery Budget Review: G. Pare moved to tentatively recommend the Cemetery budget of $22,972., S. Sweeney seconded the motion.**

L. Richardson asked for details of the tombstone project. R. Stern explained that the tombstones are being cleaned. These funds do not have to be raised by taxes as they use their Trust Funds for the project. B. Arsenault expressed concern over the amount budgeted for grub and crabgrass treatment. J. Lamson stated that this is a reduced figure from last year. R. Stern explained that this was a multi-year project. The question was raised as to how many acres are involved. G Pare stated there were approximately 19 acres involved.

**J. Lamson called for a vote on the Cemetery budget and all were in favor of $22,972.**

**Recreation Budget Review: G. Pare moved to tentatively recommend the Recreation budget of $51,050., G. Klanchesser seconded the motion.**

G Klanchesser asked what bills were remaining to be paid as there appeared to be excess in some of the budget lines. R. Stern informed the Committee that the Recreation Committee needs to purchase a tent for Septemberfest and other events so that in the event it rains there is cover for attendees. Rentals of tents in the past have not been productive.

The Summer YMCA Program was discussed and R. Stern explained that this year the fee was reduced as an intern was retained at no cost to work with staff. He reviewed the fee of $400. per child with the Committee. G. Klanchesser stated that the families pay additional funds for field trips the children attend.

[Note: It was later stated that the Town spent $24,803. for the 2014 YMCA Summer Program and 25 children attended. This is a cost of $992. per child.]

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

**Other Business:** M. Marconi stated that Ms. Karen Latchaw was interested in serving on the Budget Committee as an alternate. R. Stern mentioned that he had previously given the Chair information regarding a resident of South Newington that was also interested. J. Lamson stated that S. Sweeney, G. Pare and his term were all expiring in 2015.

**Recreation Budget Review**: Diana Moulton, Recreation Committee member, had not been notified timely about the Budget Committee meeting. She arrived and discussed the need for the tent purchase, the $400. fee per child for the Summer Program and that there was not a family fee but only a per child fee. She emphasized the savings the Town realized due to the intern being involved in the Summer Recreation Program. There is a three foot crack in the tennis courts which the Committee is planning to have repaired along with maintenance to both courts next year. The Committee is also rebuilding bridges on the Town trails in 2015.

**Adjournment**: **G. Klanchesser moved to adjourn at 8:02pm. This was seconded by G. Pare with all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha S. Roy

Town Administrator