**Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, January 28, 2015 Town Hall 6:30pm**

**Chr. Lamson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.**

**Present:** Chairman John Lamson, VC Gail Klanchesser, Gail Pare, Michael Marconi, Sandra Sweeney, Leila Richardson, Brandon Arsenault, Katherine Latchaw, Alan Wilson, School Board Rep. David Mueller and Selectmen’s Rep. Cosmas Iocovozzi. Also present were Chair of Board of Selectmen, Jan Stuart and Selectman Rick Stern as well as Town Administrator, Martha Roy,

**General Government Budget Request: G. Klanchesser moved to tentatively approve a budget of $2,263,266 Gail Pare seconded. Motion passed 10-1** (Brandon Arsenault opposed)**.** Before the vote, discussion ensued about the COLA for full time and part time employees. M. Roy discussed need for salary survey prior to approval of part time wage increases and that a full time employee had a 40-hour workweek.

The Committee asked about the Town Safety program and Highway drug and alcohol testing, increase in TC/TC Deputy hours, the cell phone plans for the Highway Dept and Custodian, and the tile floor issues in the Town Hall. Also discussed were the planned tree removal at the Town Hall and phone charges missing from the Historic District building’s budgets.

G. Klanchesser requested review of ability of the Selectmen to encumber funds from a line that had been over expended- speaking to the encumbrance for Town Hall Parking lot light repair due to lightening strike. R. Stern explained that the Selectmen could over expend any line of the budget as long as the bottom line is not over expended.

Various regional association budgets were reviewed and concerns raised by M. Marconi as to the need.

M. Roy will give the Building Inspector’s list of building repairs to the Budget Committee along with each Regional Association benefit to number of Newington residents.

M. Roy explained that the Transfer Station and Residential Trash Collection budgets have been divided for ease of analysis in the future. Discussion was held about mosquito and tick control in town. L. Richardson asked for further information on brand of mosquito and tick sprays. Deer feeding stations that have tick repellent are being investigated.

Questions about the hydrant and water costs associated with them were raised. C. Iocovozzi reviewed the annual charge for water and hydrant repair cost.

The State permitting process for Mott Pond dam is nearing completion. The new box culvert installation funding is included in the 2015 budget, encumbrances and capital reserve fund.

G. Klanchesser requested draft copies of all money warrant articles prior to the Public Hearing. The Committee consensus was to meet on February 4th at 6:30pm to review the warrant articles.

2015 anticipated revenues were distributed to the Committee.

**Minutes Review**: The January 21, 2015 minutes were reviewed. **G. Klanchesser moved to approve the minutes of January 21, 2015 with changes as noted. L. Richardson seconded this.**  **The vote was 9-0-2 in favor (with L. Richardson and J. Lamson abstaining as they were not present).**

**Adjournment**: **G. Klanchesser moved to adjourn at 9:11pm, seconded by G. Pare with all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha S. Roy

Town Administrator