

Town of Newington, NH  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 07, 2016 Town Hall

Chair John Lamson called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM

**Present:** John Lamson - Chair, Gail Pare, Sandra Sweeney, David Mueller, Alan Wilson, Kathy Latchaw, Jennifer Kent Weiner, Brandon Arsenault- Vice Chair, James Belanger, David Mueller- School Board, Katherine Latchaw, Michael Marconi- Selectman.

**Guests:** Lillian Wilson - Library Trustee, Skip Cole - Sewer Commissioner, Rick Stern - Sewer Commissioner, Debbie Zabkar - Finance Director, James Weiner - Conservation Commission Co-Chair, Jane Hislop - Conservation Commission Co-Chair, Denis Messier, Sewer Plant Manager, Lara Berry - Library Director, Victoria Eversman - Recording Secretary and Martha Roy, Town Administrator.

J. Lamson explained that the Budget Committee process involves moving the Selectmen's budget recommendation to the public hearing.

**Library Budget Review:**

**G. Pare moved to tentatively approve the library budget of \$190,495.**

**K. Latchaw seconded the motion.**

L. Berry stated programming and room use exponentially grew in 2016. The two largest increases on the budget are made up of wage increases and programming expenses. Discussion was held regarding library usage statistics, children's programming, resident and non-resident usage, teenager usage, registration process and book groups.

**J. Lamson called for a vote on the Library budget and all were in favor of \$190,495.**

**Sewer Commission Budget Review:**

J. Lamson explained that the Sewer budget is tax neutral and doesn't impact our property taxes. User fees pay for the sewer budget.

**M. Marconi moved to tentatively approve the Sewer Commission budget of \$869,744. G. Pare seconded the motion.**

Denis Messier, reviewed the budget with the committee. The budget increase is due to the increase in cost of Primex insurance and the construction which is underway to reduce the nitrogen level.

**J. Lamson called for a vote on the Sewer Commission budget and all were in favor of \$869,744.**

**Conservation Commission Budget Review:**

**M. Marconi moved to tentatively approve the Conservation Commission budget of \$11,592. G. Pare seconded the motion.**

James Weiner addressed the 45.6% increase in budget requested. This is primarily due to hiring a consultant to finish the easement requirements [on the Ripley property], wage line increase, and plans to continue to hold Educational events.

**J. Lamson called for a vote on the Conservation Commission budget and all were in favor of \$11,592.**

**Recreation Department Budget:**

There were no representatives from the Recreation Committee at the meeting.

The Board of Selectman recommended reducing the budget submitted by the Recreation Committee from \$51,050 to \$46000.

**G. Pare moved to tentatively approve the Recreation Committee budget of \$51,050. D. Mueller seconded the motion.** Discussions ensued regarding the Voucher Program and the Movie Theatre ticket program. It was requested that \$100 be moved out of the Movie Ticket program into the Voucher Program.

**J. Kent Weiner moved to amend the motion to \$46,100. D. Mueller seconded the motion.** This would allow the Voucher Program line to have funds for families in need.

**J. Lamson called for a vote on the amendment. All were in favor with the exception of G. Pare who abstained.**

**J. Lamson called for a vote on the original motion as amended. All were in favor.**

**J. Kent Weiner also asked what specific controls are in place to insure the Septemberfest event is not over expended in the future.**

**Review of Minutes: B. Arsenault moved to approve the minutes of September 21, 2016. M. Marconi seconded the motion and all were in favor. G. Pare and J. Belanger abstained.**

**Budget Committee Vacancy: J. Lamson stated R. Stern volunteered to fill the current Budget Committee vacancy. J. Kent Weiner moved to nominate R. Stern. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

D. Mueller moved to adjourn at 8:21 pm. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Eversman  
Recording Secretary