

Town of Newington, NH  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 3, 2019 Town Hall

Chair John Lamson called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

**Present:** John Lamson, Chair, Brandon Arsenaull, Vice-Chair, William Wright, Sandra Sweeney, Jamie Belanger, Jennifer Kent Weiner, Police Chief, Mike Bilodeau, Mike Marconi-Selectmen's Rep, Ted Connors, Chair Board of Selectmen, Ken Latchaw, Road Agent, Len Thomas, Selectman, Finance Director, Cyndi Saklad, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

**S. Sweeney moved to approve the minutes of December 5<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion, with all in favor.**

J. Lamson explained that the Budget Committee had asked the Police Chief to reduce his budget to \$1,708,205. The Police Chief came back with a new budget for \$1,708,026. **B. Arsenaull moved to approve the amended Police budget for \$1,708,026. S. Sweeney seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Highway Budget Review:**

J. Lamson asked for a motion to approve the Highway budget of \$494,418.

**B. Arsenaull moved to tentatively approve the Highway budget of \$494,418. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion.**

Road Agent Len Thomas presented the Highway budget to the committee. The 2019 highway budget has a \$38,000 increase. M. Roy explained that the increase is due to Rick St. Laurent's wages are now included in the highway budget and the plowing of Woodbury Ave. J. Kent Weiner asked if the description for the salary line could be changed to include this information. B. Arsenaull questioned why the striping budget had increased even though Woodbury would be striped when the town takes it over in September.

**B. Arsenaull moved to reduce the striping line of the Highway budget from \$18,000 to \$13,000 and amend the Highway budget to \$489,418. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion. B. Arsenaull moved to approve the amended Highway budget of \$489,418. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.**

J. Lamson asked M. Roy to have a list of the 2018 encumbrances prepared for the last budget meeting in January.

Discussion ensued about road paving priorities and the future plans for paving.

M. Roy let the committee know that the Rockingham Planning Commission is doing a survey of all the roads in Newington. M. Roy will send the report to the committee as soon as it is received.

**Executive Office Budget Review:**

**J. Kent Weiner moved to tentatively approve the Executive Office budget of \$324,691. B. Arsenault seconded the motion.**

J. Kent Weiner asked why wages are up 14%. M. Roy explained that the town has a new finance director and her wages are more than the previous director. The Town also has a new safety policy that requires two employees at the Town Hall at all times.

**S. Sweeney moved to approve the Executive Office budget of \$324,691. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Elections Budget Review:**

**S. Sweeney moved to tentatively approve the Elections budget of \$6,434. B. Arsenault seconded the motion.**

The budget is lower in 2019 because there is only one election.

**S. Sweeney moved to approve the Elections budget of \$6,434. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector Budget Review:**

**J. Kent Weiner moved to tentatively approve the Town Clerk/Tax Collector budget of \$63,029. B. Arsenault seconded the motion.**

The Town Clerk's salary has increased by 20% to \$38,000. B. Arsenault questioned if this increased salary was "in line" with other "like" towns in the area.

**S. Sweeney moved to table approval of the Town Clerk/Tax Collectors budget until research is presented to the Committee on the salary comparison with other towns. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.**

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector budget review will be added to the January 9, 2019 agenda.

**Finance & Assessing Budget Review:**

**J. Kent Weiner moved to tentatively approve the Finance & Assessing budget of \$343,500. S. Sweeney seconded the motion.**

The budget has increased because 2019 is a revaluation year.

**J. Kent Weiner moved to approve the Finance & Assessing budget of \$343,500. S. Sweeney seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Legal Budget Review:**

**J. Kent Weiner moved to tentatively approve the Legal budget of \$96,004. S. Sweeney seconded the motion.**

The budget has decreased by 20% for 2019. \$50,000 has been budgeted for the Eversource appeal. Planning has \$20,000 in their budget for legal expenses. The Board of Selectmen are waiting for the SEC report, then there will be a public meeting to get feedback from residents and then a strategy will be developed.

**S. Sweeney moved to approve the Legal budget of \$96,004. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Town Buildings Administration Budget Review:**

**J. Kent Weiner moved to approve the Town Buildings Administration budget of \$15,752. S. Sweeney seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Town Hall Budget Review: B. Arsenault moved to approve the Town Hall budget of \$50,750. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Town Garage Budget Review: B. Arsenault moved to approve the Town Garage budget of \$14,150. S. Sweeney seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Old Town Hall Budget Review: S. Sweeney moved to approve the Old Town Hall budget of \$10,300. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Meeting House Budget Review: The 2019 budget is \$22,800 more than 2018. The increase is due to structural issues that will have to be investigated. Plus the painting of the steeple.**

**S. Sweeney moved to approve the Meeting House budget of \$27,900. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Fire Station Budget Review:** The 2019 budget is \$16,075 more than 2018. The increase is due to septic line under the building that has failed. This issue has to be fixed and bathrooms redone. Plans for a ventilation room will be drawn up. **J. Kent Weiner moved to approve the Fire Station budget of \$38,775. B. Arsenault seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Police Station Budget Review:** **B. Arsenault moved to approve the Police Station budget of \$21,210. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Stone School Budget Review:** **B. Arsenault moved to approve the Stone School budget of \$850. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Old Parsonage Budget Review:** **S. Sweeney moved to approve the Old Parsonage budget of \$5,220. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Insurance Budget Review:** **J. Kent Weiner moved to approve the Insurance budget of \$265,321. S. Sweeney seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Regional Associations Budget Review:** The Executive Office sent out a survey to all the nonprofit organizations that the Town contributes to. The Selectmen recommend a 10% cut across the board for 2019. Sandy Sweeney spoke about the importance of supporting these nonprofit organizations, especially the ones that support children. Emily Savenelli spoke about the good work that the Richie McFarland group does and would like to see them funded. Samara Robertson spoke about the good work that Haven does in the community. Haven is coming to the Newington school this school year. Police Chief Bilodeau spoke on behalf of the Child Advocacy Center and the good work they provide Newington residents. Denis Hebert reminded the committee that every dollar the town contributes to COAST is matched by the federal government. J. Kent Weiner recommends having the Fire and Police weigh in on the value of these charities. **S. Sweeney moved to restore the 10% cut by the Selectmen and amend the Regional Associations budget to \$40,511. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with B. Arsenault opposed and all others in favor.**

**Code Enforcement Budget Review:** **S. Sweeney moved to approve the Code Enforcement budget of \$132,339. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Street Lighting Budget Review:** **J. Kent Weiner moved to approve the Street Lighting budget of \$15,500. S. Sweeney seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Transfer Station Budget Review:** Discussion ensued about the increased fees for recycling because of the increased amount of no recyclable items being put in the hopper. Instructions for recycling should be included in the newsletter to help keep down the fees.

**B. Arsenault moved to approve the Transfer Station budget of \$67,521. S. Sweeney seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Residential Waste Collection Budget Review:** B. Arsenault moved to approve the Residential Waste Collection budget of \$89,956. J. Belanger seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Pest Control Budget Review:** S. Sweeney moved to approve the Pest Control budget of \$38,000. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Health Budget Review:** This is a new expense line this year. It is to supplement residents that want to have their wells or blood tested.

**S. Sweeney moved to approve the Health budget of \$8,000. J. Belanger seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Welfare Budget Review:** S. Sweeney moved to approve the Welfare budget of \$1,000. B. Arsenault seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Land Management Budget Review:** B. Arsenault moved to approve the Land Management budget of \$51,850. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Debt Budget Review:** B. Arsenault moved to approve the Debt Service budget of \$63,626. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Capital Outlay Budget Review:** M. Roy explained that the Fire Department's defib units have failed and need to be replaced. The Fire Department met with the Selectmen and both agreed to enter into a 3 year lease agreement for 2 refurbished defib units. This will reduce the Fire Department's capital outlay budget line by \$30,000. The Fire Chief would like to now include a warrant article for \$20,000 for the Fire Department Vehicle Replacement. The Fire Department's command car also needs repairs. The Budget Committee would like the Fire Department to come to the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting to talk about these changes to the budget. **B. Arsenault moved to table the Capital Outlay budget until the next meeting. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Capital Reserve/Trust Budget Review:** Discussion ensued about the Ambulance warrant article for \$106,000. The committee would like to discuss this warrant article with the Fire Department on January 9<sup>th</sup>. **B. Arsenault moved to amend the Capital Reserve budget by removing the \$106,000 for the ambulance capital**

reserve and approve the remaining budget of \$157,500. S. Sweeney seconded the motion with all in favor. B. Arsenault moved to table the Trust Budget review until the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Warrant Articles Budget Review:** B. Arsenault moved to table the warrant article budget discussion. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.

M. Roy explained that there has been a \$75,000 encumbrance for the Wilcox Way paving since 2016. The auditors have suggested that this amount be added back into the 2019 budget instead of it remaining as an encumbrance. This would be a revenue neutral event for the budget. The Budget Committee asked that this amount be added back to the Highway budget in a separate budget line named Wilcox Way Paving. B. Arsenault moved to add \$75,000 to the Highway budget in a separate line named Wilcox Way Paving. J. Belanger seconded the motion with all in favor.

M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 9:32pm. S. Sweeney seconded the motion with all in favor.

After the meeting was adjourned J. Kent Weiner asked about the loan to the Town from the Sewer Department.

T. Connors explained that the loan and interest had been paid back to the Sewer Department on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Discussion ensued about the need for the loan, the tax bills being sent out late, the procedures that are now in place to prevent this from happening in the future and the amount of interest paid to the Sewer Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Boy  
Recorder