

Town of Newington, NH  
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 5, 2018 Town Hall

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

**Present:** John Lamson, Chair, Katherine Latchaw, William Wright, Sandra Sweeney, Alan Wilson, Jamie Belanger, Jennifer Kent Weiner, Library Director, Lara Croft, Library Trustees; Lillian Wilson and Leila Lamson, Fire Engineer Chair, Jim Fabrizio, Jack O'Reilly, School Board Rep, Fire Engineer & Library Trustee, Mike Marconi-Selectmen's Rep, EJ Hoyt, Assistant Fire Chief, Darin Sabine, Fire Chief, Recreation Committee Member, Rebecca Navelski, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

**J. O'Reilly moved to approve the minutes of September 19<sup>th</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. M. Marconi and Ken Latchaw abstained with all remaining in favor.**

**J. Kent Weiner moved to approve the revised Budget Committee schedule. The January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 meeting has been moved to Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm. S. Sweeney seconded the motion with all in favor.**

J. O'Reilly expressed his concern that the departments brought their budgets to the Selectmen and then the Selectmen cut the budgets. K. Latchaw reminded him that the Selectmen asked the Fire Dept to go back and work on bringing the budget down. He stated that there was a lot of back and forth discussion on the budget.

J. Lamson assured J. O'Reilly that the departments are always welcome to give their comments to the budget committee.

Ken Latchaw explained that the Selectmen went through the budget line by line looking for areas to trim back.

**Library Budget Review:**

Library Director Lara Croft presented the library budget to the committee.

J. Lamson pointed out that the 2019 library budget has a \$32,000 increase and wanted to know the benefits that the Town gets with this increase. L. Croft explained that the library is proposing to make the Programming Director a full time benefited position. This will allow the library to be open an additional 7 hours a week in 2019, there will be more children's programs and the library will

have the stability of a full-time program director. There has been turnover in this position due to the part time status. J. Kent Weiner inquired about the number of non-resident library cards and if they could be charged more for their cards. L. Croft explained that there were only 7 non-resident library cards so an increase wouldn't have that much effect. M. Marconi encouraged L. Croft to try and think of more revenues in 2019 to offset the increase. J. Lamson asked about the Economic Development Committee using the Library as a recruiting tool for attracting businesses. W. Wright inquired about the benefits for a full-time employee. M. Roy outlined the benefits and buy out option for health insurance.

J. Lamson asked for a motion to approve the Library budget of \$241,684.

**Katherine Latchaw moved to tentatively approve the Library budget of \$241,684. Alan Wilson seconded the motion with J. Belanger abstaining, J. O'Reilly opposed and all others in favor.**

**Recreation Budget Review:**

**S. Sweeney moved to tentatively approve the Recreation budget of \$51,350. Katherine Latchaw seconded the motion.**

Rebecca Navelski presented the budget to the committee. They are hoping to add a tennis program, a Fit for Mom program and skating lessons in 2019. The Recreation Committee is also adding a senior dinner in 2019. The committee is also hoping that the school road race and the yard sale can be the same Saturday in September next year.

J. Belanger commended the Recreation Committee for the big improvements to the Summer Camp in 2018. R. Navelski pointed out that they are hoping to get older Newington kids to be additional counselors at the camp in 2019.

**J. Lamson called for a vote on the Recreation Budget of \$51,350. J. O'Reilly opposed with all others in favor.**

**Fire Department Budget Review:**

Fire Chief Darin Sabine presented the Fire budget to the committee. D. Sabine explained that the increase in the wage and salary line is due to the 3% cola, step increases and the union contract. The union contract is up in 2020 and negotiations will begin in the summer of 2019.

J. O'Reilly pointed out that the legal line was reduced from \$6,000 to \$0. M. Roy explained that the budget committee had asked that budget lines be combined and so legal was moved to the general legal expense line. She also discussed the

previous legal dispute between the Fire Engineers and Selectmen that cost the town double in legal fees. J. Kent Weiner expressed that she didn't remember the Budget Committee making that recommendation. J. Lamson thought that the Budget Committee had discussed combing similar lines in the budget.

Discussion ensued about several items;

- The detail line was low in 2018, but there is going to be an increased need in 2019 due to support for Sea3. This account has an offsetting revenue account.
- D. Sabine has made changes in the department to decrease the amount of overtime.
- Telephone line increase due to the addition of the "I am responding" software. This gives details of points of entrance and egress to buildings and any hazardous substances located there.

This will also allow wireless connectivity when away from the station.

- The SCBA maintenance line decreased as the new leased SCBA units' maintenance is included in the program
- The foam line has increased because the department has switched to an environmentally friendly foam per NFPA regulations
- The department is hoping to get a fire boat donation from Sprague and Sea-3 in 2019

J. Lamson asked that the Fire Department Radio Maintenance line be changed from \$3,500 to \$9,300 to reflect the expense of the existing Keltron contract. J. Lamson asked the Fire Department to reduce their remaining budget by \$5,800, so the bottom line remains the same.

**Katherine Latchaw moved to tentatively approve the Fire Department budget of \$1,760,105. S. Sweeney seconded the motion with J. O'Reilly opposed and all others in favor.**

**M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 9:08pm. J. Kent Weiner seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Eleanor Boy  
Recorder**