

## Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2016

Meeting called to order at 1832 hrs. Present were Joe Goss (Chairman), Julie Rosiak (V.Chair), Donna Gridley, Marie McConarty, Kathleen Maloney, Lynne Parker, Jonathan Smith, Ellen White(Town Administrator) and Rick Morgan(Selectmen Rep). There is no representative for the West Ossipee Fire Pct.

Previous meeting minutes from November 2 were reviewed and unanimously approved.

The following budgets were reviewed:

- 1) Selectmen's office: Ellen White presented. Overall budget down 2.55%. The salary increase for office staff is due to the union contract negotiations which are not finalized. The Town Administrator salary increase reflects a \$2500 increase not shown in the line last year plus the proposed 3% increase through the union contract negotiations. A motion was made to approve the budget in the amount of \$662,611.00(-2.55%). Budget was approved unanimously.
- 2) Government Buildings: Brad Harriman presented. The salary line increase is due to the hiring of a part time cleaner which has saved money plus the services are better. The contract wages are down due to the hiring of the cleaner. The electric increase is up due to a 10% national surcharge to subsidize infrastructure. Marie asked why bldg. fuel is up. This is due to the new highway garage and the elimination of the wood stove. Joe questioned why there is still a contract wages line if we hired a cleaner. This money is used for quarterly maintenance on the gym floor. A motion was made to approve the budget in the amount of \$216,216.00 (-2.05%). Budget was approved unanimously.
- 3) Highway Department: Brad Harriman presented. The wages line is set at zero until the union contract is settled and the warrant article issued. The tire line increase is due to the rubber tire backhoe needing new tires. Lynne asked why the diesel fuel is down YTD. Brad stated it is due to the mild winter last year. Jonathan asked how many employees in the highway dept. Brad stated nine. A motion was made to approve the budget in the amount of \$1,293,450.00 (-.31%). Budget was approved unanimously.
- 4) Transfer station: Brad Harriman presented. The wages are under union contract negotiations. The maintenance line is up due to an expensive baler repair. Julie asked why the office supply line is up. Brad stated he is unsure. The electric increase is up due to a 10% national surcharge to subsidize infrastructure. Jonathan asked about the hauling/dumping contract line. Brad stated there is a mandatory \$10 per container increase each year of the contract. Hazardous waste is up since the rate is set by the LRPC. A motion was made to approve the budget in the amount of \$439,543.00 (1.49%). Budget was approved unanimously.
- 5) Police department: Chief Eldridge presented. The Chief presented a wage survey indicating Ossipee officers are at the bottom for hourly compensation. He indicated that the PD lost too many good

officers to nearby towns seeking better wages. He indicated it costs \$34,094.00 to train an officer. The Selectmen approved a wage increase in the following amounts: Patrolman 7.85%, Lieutenant 9.34%, Chief 8.93%. Jonathan voiced concerned for the long term impact of the Police budget on the town. He indicated that over the last 7 years there was an average increase of 4.3%. This average increase would put the overall police budget in 10 years at an approximate amount of \$1,800,000.00. Rick Morgan understood fully but expressed the growth in the PD budget fits within the town's growth. Frank Riley voiced his support for the police and the job they do. A motion was made to approve the budget in the amount of \$1,125,266.00 (5.99%). Budget was approved unanimously.

6) PD Special duty pay: Chief Eldridge presented. This money goes out but is reimbursed fully to the town. There is a zero cost to the town. A motion was made to approve the budget in the amount of \$25,000.00. Budget was approved unanimously.

7) Dog officer: The Humane Society line was overspent due to the boarding of dogs for the Sweet Paws criminal case. Julie asked about the telephone line not being spent. Ellen stated that was because the bill was not submitted until recently. . A motion was made to approve the budget in the amount of \$13,829.00. Budget was approved unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 1925hrs.

Jonathan Smith

Recording Clerk