

Budget Committee Meeting

2/6/2013

Chairman, Donna Sargent called the workshop to order at 5:35 PM. Those in attendance were Jane terKuile, Joe Goss, Jim Fitzpatrick, Marie McConarty, Lynne Parker, Robert Freeman, Selectmen's Representative; Tom Kondrat, West Ossipee Fire Precinct Representative; Elaine M Sherman, Finance Manager, who recorded the minutes.

Chairman Sargent stated that the committee would be reviewing a number of warrant articles that needed clarification.

Article #4 to raise \$30,000.00 to be added to the Highway Department's Equipment Capital Reserve Fund was addressed first. Brad Harriman spoke on the equipment replacement schedule, outlining the projected costs of vehicles over the next three years. Joe Goss stated that Article 7 & 8 removes \$75,000.00 from the Capital Reserve Fund and this puts \$30,000.00 back in. He asked why not just draw \$45,000.00. Mr. Harriman stated that adding to the Capital Reserve Fund each year is a good practice and feels that it is hard to get back into the habit if you let it go for a while. Tom Kondrat asked if Harriman had considered leasing or a 5 year financing plan as interest rates are at historic lows. Harriman stated that he had not but would be willing to do the research in the future. Mr. Freeman made a motion to recommend the article, Marie McConarty seconded and the motion carried 4 to 3.

Article #11 to raise \$25,000.00 for the purpose of improvements to town buildings was discussed next. Brad Harriman explained the types and locations of work that is planned. Jim Fitzpatrick asked why the Library is not responsible for the building. Mr. Freeman explained that the Library is a town owned building and therefore the responsibility of the Town to maintain. Mr. Freeman made a motion to recommend the article, Chairman Sargent seconded and the motion carried 5 to 2.

Article #15 to raise \$160,000.00 to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Account for the purpose of a complete revaluation of the Town in 2015. Chairman Sargent made a motion to take the article off the table, Freeman seconded and a unanimous vote was taken. Jim Fitzpatrick asked the Selectmen to clarify what the Revaluation consisted of. He stated that he thought that 25% of the town was being reviewed each year as part of the Assessing Contract and wondered why it wouldn't be complete by 2015. Selectman Maloney attempted to clarify what a Revaluation contract consists of. Mr. Fitzpatrick made a motion not to recommend the article, Mr. Goss seconded. The Committee voted 5 to 2 not to Recommend.

Article #17 to raise \$50,000.00 to be added to the Benefit Pay Capital Reserve. Selectman Maloney stated that the town has a number of long time employees that are eligible to retire and could do so at any time. She added that the Benefit Capital Reserve would be used to fund their severance packages. The committee's consensus was that over \$58,000.00 in the reserve fund was quite a bit of money. Elaine Sherman, Finance Manager stated that one employee with 25 years of service to the Town could possibly wipe out that entire balance. McConarty wondered if \$50,000.00 was enough to add. Freeman made a motion to recommend the article, McConarty seconded and the motion carried by a vote of 4 to 3.

Article #22 to raise \$80,000.00, for one half of the Town's share of the Federal Grant received for the Whittier Covered Bridge project. Chairman Sargent made a motion to take the article off the table, Freeman seconded and a unanimous vote was taken. Harriman gave a quick review of the history of the project and then explained the plans moving forward. Discussion ensued over the entire cost of the project, whether this (20% raised over the next 2 years) would be the final expense, load limits and confirming the bridge would eventually open to everyone. Mr. Harriman fielded all the committee questions resulting with Freeman making a motion to recommend the article. Jane terKuile seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. 7 to 0

Article #23 to raise \$62,000.00 for roof repair and improvements of the Public Library. Brad Harriman handed out information packages to the committee members. He reviewed the results of an inspection and the recommended plan of action. Fitzpatrick asked if the repairs could be put off for a while. Harriman stated that currently the structure is sound and there is no mold but he could not guarantee that to be the case if the project is delayed. Fitzpatrick made a motion to recommend the article. Joe Goss seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. 7 to 0.

As a last order of business of the workshop, Joe Goss made a motion to accept the minutes for the Budget Committee Meeting of 1/30/2013. Sargent seconded and all voted in favor.

Budget Committee Public Hearing

Chairman Sargent opened the Public Hearing to discuss the Ossipee Corner Power & Light Precinct and the Town of Ossipee Budgets at 6:35 PM. . Also in attendance were Jane terKuile, Joe Goss, Jim Fitzpatrick, Marie McConarty, Lynne Parker, David Babson, Robert Freeman, Selectmen's Representative; Tom Kondrat, West Ossipee Fire Precinct Representative; Elaine M Sherman, Finance Manager.

Lynne Parker asked if anyone wished to speak to the Ossipee Corner Power & Light Precinct's budget. There were no questions regarding the overall budget for the precinct. Parker stated that the 2013 Budget is \$427,360.00 with \$21,500.00 coming from surplus results in \$405,860.00 required to be raised by taxation. As the Budget Committee voted to recommend the Precinct's budget at a previous meeting and no questions came from the public, the Committee signed the Precinct's MS-37 and returned it to Parker.

Chairman Sargent stated that the two page handout represented what the Budget Committee has recommended for Town's 2013 Budget. She said she would read down the listing by department and encouraged the public to question or comment on anything that they wished to. Discussions ensued regarding budgets of the Government Buildings, Cemeteries, Dog Officer, Highway and Water & Sewer Departments. Sargent stated that the committee recommends the operating budget with the exception of the Water & Sewer Department's budget.

Jim Fitzpatrick read through the warrant articles again encouraging anyone to speak on any item. There was a discussion regarding the purchase of the Compactor for the Transfer Station. Brad Harriman explained the equipment and said that it would pay for itself in about two and a half years. Jim Eldridge explained the intent in asking for a dedicated part-time officer to work within the Ossipee Central

School for approximately 5 to 6 hours a day. The Committee believes that the position should be within the GWSD budget. Details of the garden islands were explained to the public by Brad Harriman. The Budget Committee recommends \$1,008,946.00 of the proposed \$1,191,046.00 of warrant articles.

Being no further questions, Chairman Sargent closed the Public Hearing.

Returning to the Budget Committee, Sargent asked if members would like to consider any of the votes previously made. Jim Fitzpatrick reviewed the warrant articles that the committee did not recommend; namely the Revaluation, the Resource Officer and the Freedom Food Pantry articles.

In a discussion of how the Town Warrant appears to the voters, Jim Fitzpatrick suggested that after the Operating Budget of \$4,822,642.00 a subtotal is printed before the Water & Sewer budget is listed.

Mr. Freeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sargent seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM