

Approved as written at the Bristol Budget Committee meeting on February 13, 2012

**BRISTOL BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 30, 2012**

PRESENT:

Shaun Lagueux-Chairman, Paul Simard-Vice Chairman, Barbara Greenwood, Jon Thouin, Tom Keegan, Selectman Jeff Shackett, Dorcas Gordon, Ashley Dolloff, Wendy Costigan, Dan Arseneau, Ron Preble, Mark Chevalier

ABSENT:

David Carr

OTHERS PRESENT:

Town Administrator Michael Capone

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Lagueux called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Chairman Lagueux asked the members to review of the minutes from the January 16, 2012 and January 23, 2012 meetings. Vice Chairman Simard made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Mr. Chevalier. Town Administrator Capone mentioned three places where the names needed to be corrected in the January 23 minutes. Chairman Lagueux called for a vote to accept the minutes as amended. This passed with all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Lagueux welcomed Architect, Brackley Shaw and Mr. George Corrette of the Minot Sleeper Library Trustees to the meeting. Brackley Shaw, architect from Bridgewater presented his design and plans for the library renovation and addition. Mr. George Corrette from the Library Trustees explained the financing. After a brief question and answer time Chairman Lagueux thanked them for coming and giving the presentation.

FINAL DELIBERATION:

Chairman Lagueux stated that he would entertain any motions regarding the final budget proposal.

Outside Details:

Vice Chairman Simard asked if any new information had come in regarding the outside details line item. Town Administrator Capone stated that the engineers reviewed the information that is available and determined based on the current information the new amount is \$118,000.

Vice Chairman Simard made a motion to adopt the amount of \$118,000 for line 4211-141 Outside Details. Ms Greenwood seconded the motion. This **passed** with all in favor.

Mr. Thouin made a motion to reduce the \$1 to \$0 (zero) for line 4210-141 Police Department Outside Details. Vice Chairman Simard seconded the motion. This **passed** with all in favor.

Police Department – Gas/Oil:

Mr. Chevalier made a motion to adopt the amount of \$30,000 for line 4210-635 Gas/Oil. Mr. Keegan seconded the motion.

Mr. Chevalier stated that this would return the amount to the Select Board's proposed amount. The cost of fuel is high and based on last year's actual expenditure the \$25,000 is not enough. Mr. Keegan agrees and feels that based on last year's use the department needs the \$30,000 and it would provide them with a buffer.

Vice Chairman Simard asked if the \$30,000 was based on the locked in State price. Town Administrator stated that it was not. The locked in amount was given after the first proposed budget amount. He added that the Police Department uses the State pumps in New Hampton almost exclusively.

It was noted that Police Chief Lewis lowered this line item to \$25,000 when the Budget Committee asked him to further cut his budget. Chief Lewis stated this would be a hardship on the department.

Vice Chairman Simard stated that the Committee should stick with the Chief's amount. The new cruiser is a 6-cyl and should have better gas mileage. The Police Department will need to manage their fuel usage.

Ms Gordon agreed adding that the Police Chief presented this number and she would like to see how this lower amount is used.

Mr. Arseneau stated that he is not in favor of adding money to this line item. The Chief agreed to lower the budget and this is an item he chose to lower. It is a bottom line budget and the Police Chief can move things around to make his department work with in that budget.

Chairman Lagueux called for a vote on the motion:

The motion is to raise the Police Department gas/oil line to \$30,000. This **failed** with a tie vote of 6 in favor and 6 opposed.

Police Department – New Equipment:

Mr. Chevalier made a motion to amend line 4210-810 Police Department – New Equipment to \$7400. Mr. Keegan seconded the motion.

Mr. Chevalier stated that he did some research regarding the camera and recording system the Police Chief requested. He called several communities and discovered the Town of Bristol was the only one that did not have any cameras or recording devices in the booking room. Mr. Chevalier also spoke with a lawyer and discovered that the Town is accepting a great liability but not having these cameras in place. The legal fees in response to any charges against an officer would be more than the cost of this equipment. Mr. Chevalier also acquired a quote from a local security firm and determined the cost to install cameras and recording equipment throughout the police department would cost \$7400. It does not include any video cameras for the cruisers.

Selectman Shackett agreed that this is a very important issue that needs to be addressed.

Vice Chairman Simard stated that he looked at security cameras at BJ's and found a package for approximately \$400.00. He suggested that competitive pricing be obtained before settling on this one.

Ms Greenwood agreed and stated she spent time with each department to see if there were any safety issues. She feels it is better to spend money on items rather than spend money on legal fees because we did not purchase the necessary equipment.

Town Administrator Capone responded to a question regarding putting this out to bid by stating for this amount of money the Police Department should get three bids.

Mr. Arseneau stated that if this equipment could be purchased at a store and installed by a Town employee then we should go the least expensive way and save the money.

Ms Gordon amended the motion to adopt the Selectmen's recommended amount of \$4000 for line item 4210-810 Police Department – New Equipment. Mr. Preble seconded the motion. The amendment **passed** with 9 in favor and 3 opposed.

Chairman Lagueux called for a vote on the motion as amended to adopt \$4000 for line 4210-810 Police Department – New Equipment. This **passed** with 10 in favor and 2 opposed.

Fire Betterment:

Mr. Thouin made a motion to accept \$10,000 for line 4327-413 Fire Betterment. Mr. Preble seconded the motion.

Mr. Thouin stated that this is an actual expense to the Water Department and currently the users of the Town Water are paying for it. The actual cost is slightly more than \$19,000 and everyone benefits from the maintenance for the hydrants so he feels it is fair that everyone should share covering the cost the expense.

Ms. Gordon stated that this is an expense of the town. She feels it would be helpful to change the name of this line item. It would relieve the confusion of what the purpose is and the yearly discussion regarding Fire Betterment would be resolved.

Chairman Lagueux called for a vote to add \$10,000 to the Fire Betterment line. This **passed** with 11 in favor and 1 opposed.

Ms Gordon made a motion to change the name from Fire Betterment to Hydrant Maintenance. Vice Chairman Simard seconded the motion. This **passed** with all in favor. Town Administrator Capone will see if it is possible to change the name.

Fire Department – FD Chief:

Ms Chevalier made a motion to accept the Select Boards proposed amount of \$63,000 for line item 4220-110 Fire Department FD Chief. Chairman Lagueux seconded the motion.

Mr. Chevalier stated that Fire Chief Yannuzzi has been with the Department for three years and his contract states that he is to receive a raise each year. Mr. Chevalier feels that even though the Chief refused the raise the Town should live up to its contract and raise the Chief's salary as stated in his contract.

Mr. Arseneau stated that it is a matter of principle the Chief refused the raise the Budget Committee did not ask him to. He is opposed to this motion.

Vice Chairman Simard stated that no one received a raise. It is not a reflection of the Chief's performance it is a reflection of the economy. He feels that if the Chief refused the raise then leave it alone.

Ms Gordon added that we asked for a bottom line amount and left it to the Chief to determine where the cuts would be made. It is his decision.

Selectman Shackett stated that the Chief would refuse to take the raise even if we offered it to him.

Chairman Lagueux called for a vote to raise the Fire Department Chief line item to 63,000. The motion **failed** with 4 in favor and 8 opposed.

BUDGET TOTAL:

Chairman Lagueux called for a vote to accept the bottom line budget amount of \$5,260,544 for the 2012 budget. This **passed** with 9 in favor and 3 opposed. (Note: This amount is incorrect and will be amended at the next Budget Committee Meeting on February 13.)

Member Comments:

Vice Chairman asked about the wording in the warrant article for the Water/Sewer project. It states the amount less any money for grants. Is there grant money available? Town Administrator Capone stated that there could be some sources available for an approved project. These options cannot be pursued until the Town approves the project at the Town meeting.

Administrator's Comments:

Town Administrator Capone stated that he would have new worksheets and revenue figures available at the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

A discussion took place regarding the next meeting. It was determined the Budget Committee will meet on February 13 to vote on the warrant articles and any other items needed for the budget to be presented at the Town Meeting.

Adjournment:

Mr. Chevalier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairman Simard seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Hemingway
Recording Secretary