

APPROVED

Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2013

Present:

Kerrin Rounds-Chair, Ron Preble, Dave Carr, Paul Manganiello, Tom Keegan, Ernie Richards, Carol Huber, Betsy Schneider, Barbara Greenwood and William Cote.

Absent:

Ashley Dolloff, Mark Chevalier, and Kevin MacCaffrie

Others Present:

Michael Capone- Town Administrator

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Kerrin Rounds called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Review of Minutes:

Kerrin Rounds asked the members to review the minutes from November 18, 2013. Ron Preble made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Ernie Richards. Motion passed with one abstention by Barbara Greenwood.

Correspondence:

Old Business:

There was a discussion with regard to the handout Dave Carr had presented at the previous meeting: The Town Administrator explained some of the reasons for the difference in his numbers from those produced by Dave. He also had a spreadsheet prepared by the Finance Officer that might help explain how the Town represents increases in the budget.

- The first difference in the wage lines (town figures compared to Dave Carr's figures) is due to the way Dave compared wages versus what the Town considers a change based on any increase to hourly wages in 2014. The Town numbers take into account the fact that the 2014 wage lines will increase anyway due to the fact that the April 2013 wage would be paid for all of 2014 even if there is no increase in 2014. The Town spreadsheet only shows the increase created by the change in hourly rate, if adopted for 2014.
- With regard to the Retirement numbers, Dave included the increase created by the fact that the new retirement rate enacted in July of 2013 would now be collected for a full year in 2014 versus just six months in 2013. The spreadsheet prepared by the Town only indicates the increase to retirement created by whatever wage scenario is ultimately adopted and appropriated as part of the 2014 budget.

Mr. Cote expressed his concern with the Town Administrator's explanation noting that all increased cost should be reflected. The Town Administrator further explained the intent of the wage spreadsheet.

The Town Administrator then distributed a wage scenario spreadsheet prepared by the Finance Officer that outlines four wage increase scenarios.

- He noted that of the four scenarios on the spreadsheet, the Select Board voted to submit a 50cent per hour wage increase for the 2014 budget. This will decrease the individual department proposed wage lines for 2014 which had been previously submitted at 3.5%.
- The Town Administrator noted that the Select Board is working a process by which any future wage increases will be tied to employee performance. Each department will receive a pool of money and the department heads will give out increases based on employee performance evaluations. The Board feels that this will be a more effective method for distributing those funds.
- Paul Manganiello commented that in looking at the police department budget, some adjustments were made in 2008 due to the 2007 wage study implementation.
- William Cote asked what wage increases have occurred since 2010. Off the top of his head, the Town Administrator recalled that there has been a 1.5% increase, a 2.5% increase, and one year with no increase.

New Business:

Non-Profit agencies have been scheduled to attend the meeting. Those agencies that were scheduled but did not attend are Mid-State Health Center, Homeland Cemetery, Garden Club, Bridge House, and CASA.

The agencies that were scheduled and did attend the meeting are Newfound Lakes Region Association and NANA.

Boyd Smith, Director of Newfound Lakes Region Association (NLRA):

- NLRA is requesting \$3,000 from the Town of Bristol for 2014.
- The \$3,000 will be split evenly between two primary uses, Lake Host program and General Operations. The \$1,500 for General Operations will go towards continuing the watershed master plan. The NLRA works with camps and towns along Newfound Lake to prevent storm water runoff.
- Tom Keegan asked if other towns contribute money to the NLRA. Bristol has the most developed shoreline thus the request is the highest. Hebron contributes \$1,000, Groton \$500, Bridgewater \$1,900, and Alexandria \$1,000.
- Kerrin Rounds asked Mr. Smith what the NLRA's opinion is regarding the wind tower project. Mr. Smith reported that the NLRA has taken on a more legislative role and works more on the policy front. This allows the NLRA to be more effective with a broader approach regarding the wind tower project.
- Kerrin Rounds asked what percent of water bodies in New Hampshire have invasive species present. Mr. Smith reported that approximately 70%-80% have invasive species, mostly in the southern end of the state.

Pat Wentworth, Director of NANA:

- 2014 requested amount is \$33,400. This represents 41.92% of NANA's total town funding.
- 50.56% of visits were provided to Bristol clients (3,312 visits)

- Federal government has decreased Medicare reimbursements each year since 2008.
- Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance all pay below the actual cost of service.
- Hospice Program is being added in 2014.
- Carol Huber asked if other towns contribute funds. Six towns also contribute. The amount of requested funds is pro-rated.
- Carol Huber asked why the telephone budget line is so high. This line includes many items not just telephone expense. Included are pagers, answering service, and cable.
- Bad Debt Expense is a reserve required by Medicare and has to be budgeted for.
- Kerrin Rounds asked how many clients NANA serves. There are 243 clients overall.
- Ernie Richards asked what impact the Affordable Health Care Act will have. There will be a negative impact. Private insurance does not pay the full cost of services.

Member Comments:

Administrator's Report:

Adjournment:

Carol Huber made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kerrin Rounds, passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Costigan, Secretary