

Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2015

Present:

Chair- Kerrin Rounds, Dave Carr, Carol Huber, William Cote, Tom Keegan, Ron Preble, Shaun Lagueux, Ernie Richards, John Sellers, Bob Emerson, Don Milbrand, and Kevin McCaffrie.

Absent: Ashley Dolloff **Others Present:** Town Administrator Michael Capone

Call to Order:

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

Review of Minutes:

Kerrin Rounds asked the committee to review the minutes from May 11, 2015. Carol Huber made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by John Sellers. The motion carried with all in favor.

Correspondence:

The Non-profit requests and reports will be sent to the Committee members electronically. The deadline for requests is September 20th.

Old Business:

New Business:

William Cote informed the Committee that he has contacted the Fire Chief regarding a visit to the fire station. The meeting is on September 25th at 3:00.

Kerrin Rounds commented that the new fire truck is in. Mr. Capone commented that the Fire Chief is expecting to get a VIN number for the command vehicle this week and expects delivery approximately three weeks after that.

Ms. Rounds reviewed the Committee calendar. Non-profits will be presenting in October. CIP is rolling along and will have new proposals with the police department as a possible discussion. December 5th is the joint Budget Committee/Select Board meeting.

Member Comments:

Ernie Richards asked to be supplied a new Revenue sheet. Mr. Capone will send a copy to the Board.

David Carr commented that he read the Town Administrator is leaving his position. Mr. Carr commented that he considers Mr. Capone a good administrator and wishes him good luck at this new job. Ms. Rounds commented that Mr. Capone has been a good resource to the Budget Committee.

Mr. Sellers commented that he has looked over the five year expense report and that he observed that a few lines have gone up considerably and a few have stayed the same. He requested that at a future meeting the Committee look this over together. Ms. Rounds replied that this can possibly be done after the CIP presentation on November 9th. Ms. Rounds requested that the Committee send her their questions so she can pass them along to the Town Administrator so he can be prepared with answers.

Mr. Sellers commented that he looked at items like the back loader and thought a discussion should be had regarding getting more years out of equipment like this even if the Town has to spend more money to get more life out of them. William Cote replied that CIP talked with Mark Bucklin about this and Mr. Bucklin said purchasing a back loader could be put off. Don Milbrand commented that CIP doesn't make those kinds of decisions. CIP just takes recommendations from Department Heads regarding equipment. The type and cost of new equipment comes more from the Select Board and the Budget Committee. Mr. Lagueux commented that the Select Board does try to stay ahead of the curve regarding this. Mr. Capone commented that the "spare" truck is still potentially being repaired. This truck was going to the fire department to be used as a forestry truck so the department would not have to purchase one.

Select Board Comments:

Shaun Lagueux reported updates to the Committee.

Highway projects: chip sealing continued on Peaked Hill Road and Ten Mile Brook Road. High Street was reconstructed and final paving will be done soon.

A purchase order was issued for winter sand.

The new fire truck is in service. The fire department is waiting for the command vehicle. The new police cruiser is in service.

The Board is still considering the needs of the police station facilities. There are still items that need to be addressed to the current building and regardless of a space needs decision there needs to be money in the budget next year to fix issues such as broken doors and a broken toilet in a cell. Mr. McCaffrie asked why the town maintenance budget line could not be used to fix the broken toilet. Mr. Lagueux replied that he agreed that it could be.

The budget for the town overall is on track and that the Town Administrator, Financial Officer, and Department Heads have done a good job.

The beach season was great. There were many positive comments made regarding the maintenance of the beaches.

The Board is very pleased with the condition of Kelley Park and the contracted services to maintain it.

There are a few vacancies that need to be filled presently including the Town Administrator and Financial Officer. The Board is actively starting the process of filling both these positions.

There are two police officers at the academy at the moment.

The merit pay system has worked well. There is a little money left over and it will be addressed as intended. The merit pay system is a good process to move forward with. Mr. Cote asked where the left over money goes. Mr. Lagueux replied that it goes into the Accrued Wages line.

Tom Keegan commented that the Decorating Committee has spent many hours making the downtown look nice. The Decorating Committee should be commended and the Committee should consider funding the Decorating Committee in the budget.

Mr. Sellers commented that the road maintenance looks great downtown. There was a spill near Dead River and when Mr. Sellers called to report it he was told that it was a state road. The fire department did go down to look at the spill. Mr. Lagueux replied that he will talk to Mark Bucklin regarding this.

Ron Preble asked for an update on the Legal line. Mr. Capone replied that there has been increased legal activity. The Town is still waiting for a final decision regarding the Beach trial. This will cost a little more than expected. The Public Service abatement appeal was denied by the BTLA, but PSNH has decided to appeal this decision so the Town will have to spend more money on this. Mr. Lagueux commented that there has been positive movement in everything. Mr. Capone commented that most of the heavy legal work should be done but the Town may have to spend more before the end of the year. The Contingency will take care of most of the extra expenses.

Mr. Capone noted that the year to date expenses are right around where they should be at 66%. The Revenues look good as well. The overall revenue received is below 66% but the State revenue is not received until the end of the year. Mr. Sellers asked if the revenue from the state will be affected as the state does not have a budget passed yet. Mr. Capone replied that the budget impasse should have no effect on impact on setting the tax rate. As he understands it presently, there should be no impact on revenues either.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Capone reported that the Select Board did commit to set prices for oil and propane from Dead River Company. The price of #2 fuel is \$1.949, which is \$1.05 less than last year. The price for propane is \$1.199 which is \$0.54 less than last year. Mr. Lagueux commented that this was bid out with the school district.

Mr. Capone commented that the sidewalk project was delayed due to the unavailability of federal money. The project will be bid out next spring for construction in the summer of 2016.

The Old Town Hall has been scraped and is being repainted using LCHIP grant money. There is still some of this money left and can be used for repairing the tin ceiling, interior painting, and refinishing the floors. A stewardship agreement will be signed when the work is completed.

LCHIP grant money is being sought for the Old Fire Station. A decision should be coming this fall. The exterior doors need to be restored and then the exterior painting can be done.

Kerrin Rounds commented that she attended the Northern Pass meeting and that the SEC filing will be done in the next 30 days or so. Mr. Capone commented that he attended the hearing on Tuesday night and that the Board has directed him to draft a letter voicing their continued opposition to the project.

Adjournment:

Ron Preble made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carol Huber, passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Costigan, Secretary

