

Bristol Budget Committee

Public Hearing

February 2, 2016

Members Present: Chair Kerrin Rounds, William Cote, Shaun Lagueux, Ernie Richards, Ashley Dolloff, Carol Huber, Tom Keegan, Don Milbrand, Bob Emerson, Kevin McCaffrie, and Ron Preble.

Members Absent: John Sellers and Dave Carr.

Chair Kerrin Rounds opened the public hearing at 7:01pm.

Police Department discussion:

Archie Auger asked if the Police Chief contract is near the end. Shaun Lagueux replied that the contract is currently in the process of renewing.

Eric Rottenecker asked why there is \$40,000 in overtime. Kerrin Rounds replied that is the expense that has been incurred. Shaun Lagueux commented that overtime is a requirement and a need and a yearly cost.

Paul Simard asked for an accounting of the outside details revolving fund. Chief Lewis replied that approximately 20-22% over the amount that's paid out goes back into the general fund. There has been approximately \$42,000 turned into the general fund.

Kevin McCaffrie commented that the retirement calculation he did does not match what is in the budget. Chief Lewis replied that the retirement amount in the budget is \$154,844. The grant lines are included in the calculation. Janet Cote asked if the wage study increases are included. Chief Lewis replied that they are not included.

Revenues discussion:

Archie Auger commented that the revenue worksheet is not available and that it is important to look at revenues as part of gross budgeting. Revenues are subtracted out and the tax rate is based on the net amount. Mr. Auger commented that the Fire Department has considerable revenues. Fire Chief Yannuzzi replied that the department revenues are \$367,000.

Archie Auger commented that the Library must be budgeted with the gross amount and that the Budget Committee took money out of the Library copier line. Mr. Auger requested that the money be put back in the copier line as the net result will not raise taxes. William Cote

commented that the other department revenues go to the general fund but the library revenues go to the library. Mr. Auger informed the Committee that the Library submitted gross budgeting.

Archie Auger commented that revenues are approximately two million dollars so roughly four million has to be raised in taxes.

Paul Simard commented that the bottom line of the budget is 5.8 million dollars and that each year about \$243,000 gets turned back to the general fund and this is money that does not need to be raised by taxes. Janet Cote commented that a certain amount of the unexpended fund balance is committed to certain liabilities. Shaun Lagueux commented that DRA says that the town can't touch the amount pending for liabilities. Mr. Lagueux commented that there are very few things the Select Board can spend the unexpended fund balance on and one of those things is using the money to set the tax rate.

A member of the public asked what the three lawsuits that are pending in town are. Janet Cote replied that the town annual report will have that information in it. Shaun Lagueux commented that the cost of these lawsuits is shared with other towns. Janet Cote commented that the auditors and DRA gives guidance on what to do with the fund. Archie Auger commented that it makes sense to have extra surplus if there are legal liabilities.

A statement by absent committee member John Sellers was read into the record.

Warrant Article discussion:

Kerrin Rounds informed the public that the Articles were read into the record at the February 1st Budget Committee meeting.

Article #6:

Ned Gordon asked if there were any other money coming in as the article allows for the acceptance of grants. Jeff Chartier replied that the town is mainly going after the state revolving loan. The town is definitely getting the full amount of funds from this loan.

Article #8:

A member of the public asked if there were any restrictions. Shaun Lagueux replied that by law this has to be a warrant article and not in the budget.

Article #11:

Archie Auger asked what firm has been hired to do the study. Shaun Lagueux replied that the quote is from Municipal Resources. Mr. Coates commented that there is also another quote

which is lower. Archie Auger commented that the firm needs to be careful with the communities selected for the basis of the study.

Article #12:

Archie Auger commented that he would not recommend this article and the town should buy a property that is sufficiently large enough to fit a facility on that will last 25-30 years.

Article #13:

Paul Simard commented that the town needs to know the actual needs of the department and that it should be evaluated by an impartial third party. Raymah Simpson asked if the town hasn't done this study numerous times and that something needs to be besides another study. Archie Auger commented that the state of NH does not set out regulations of what a police department should have. Barbara Greenwood commented that the town can't go another 15 years with the space needs issues it has now. Janet Cote commented that the town is already behind the eight ball on things that needs to be done for the police department. The town will have some options with new data and new information. Ned Gordon commented that he is concerned with parking at this new location and does not see it as a viable long term alternative. Mr. Gordon commented that a local committee can to what an outside firm will do.

Article #14:

Paul Simard commented that last year the town passed a similar article and that the town should buy a regular cruiser and not an SUV for a bigger cost. Kerrin Rounds commented that the cars are much smaller today and the police have trouble fitting existing equipment in the new cars. Chief Lewis commented that the cruiser is a utility vehicle and not an SUV. The sedan trunk can't fit the equipment in it and the utility frame is needed to carry the equipment. Susan Duncan commented that the town needs to think strategically and look at long term needs and maybe the town can skip purchasing a cruiser every year. Dave Hill commented that the CIP recommended a reserve account that gives options on when the town can purchase one. The reserve account offers more flexibility.

Article #15:

Archie Auger commented that the wording of the article should include a specific amount of money and it could be thrown out. Shaun Lagueux replied that the article was reviewed. Paul Simard commented that Grafton County could have Homeland Security grants.

Article #19:

Ned Gordon asked what amount is being taken from the funds. Shaun Lagueux replied that 25% is from Water, 25% is from Sewer, and 50% from taxation.

Articles #20 and #21:

Kerrin Rounds informed the public that the Budget Committee won't vote on these petitioned warrant articles as there is no money involved.

Archie Auger commented that he hopes Article #20 gets voted down at Town Meeting as the Budget Committee works hard and has the best interest of the town at heart. This would be a really negative thing.

Ned Gordon commented that the polls need to be open for an hour for Article #20 and there are not as many people at the end of Town Meeting. Don Milbrand commented that he will motion to move it at Town Meeting.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:23pm.

Budget Committee deliberations:

Shaun Lagueux made a motion to accept the minutes from January 19, 2016 as amended, seconded by Carol Huber. The Committee voted 10-0-1 to approve the motion.

Old Business:

Kerrin Rounds informed the Committee that the warrant articles will stay as voted on as there was no motion to revote any of the articles.

Kevin McCaffrie made a motion to reduce Line 01-4210-230 PD Retirement by \$5,567, seconded by Shaun Lagueux. Mr. McCaffrie commented that this is a compromised number after a discussion with Chief Lewis. **Vote: 11 In Favor and 0 Opposed. The motion passes.**

Tom Keegan commented that the Library copier money should be put back in the budget but then a second Public Hearing will have to happen. Kerrin Rounds replied that a motion can be made at Town Meeting and that the town should make certain that is what the statute requires.

Shaun Lagueux moved the new Overall 2016 Budget at \$5,867,692, seconded by Bob Emerson. The motion and second was withdrawn.

Shaun Lagueux made a motion to recommend Article #7 with the Budget Committee amount as \$5,867,692, seconded by Kevin McCaffrie. **Vote: 10 to recommend and 1 to not recommend.**

Shaun Lagueux made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Don Milbrand. The Committee vote 11-0 to approve the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Costigan, Committee Secretary