

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Present: Ebbighausen, Hartnett, Klein, Sanderson, Schill, Shaw, Zavorotny.

Absent: Carrier, Major, Mitchell

No replacement for the open position has been named.

This was a joint session with the Selectmen for continuation of budget review.

Budget proposals covered:

Planning & Zoning: \$77,618.

Government Buildings: \$106,894. Replacement of baseboards, etc. will reduce heating costs as drafts are now common. Mr. Hartnett commented that it might be appropriate to have a "pool" with annual appropriations to be used for this type work instead of needing to have a new budget every year. It is difficult to make appropriations of this type under state law. It would require special hold over articles, etc.

Parks: \$25,868. Vehicle cost is based on mileage. Building Repairs has been moved to a new category of Government Buildings, Heritage park.

Cemeteries: \$20,939.

Government Buildings, Heritage Park: \$4,750. See above.

Police Department: \$819,525. The Town requires specific uniforms, so is obligated to pay for them. Police Cruiser replacement has been added to the operating budget as it is considered equipment replacement. Ms. Schill voiced concern over not having a separate article for that large a purchase. The funding for an animal Control officer has been included.

Fire Department: \$152,188. Ms. Schill asked if perhaps the training could be split up and done over two years. There are ongoing training activities every year, so splitting can be difficult.

Building Inspector: \$34,932.

Emergency management: \$48,191. Work is being done to have a repeater added to the planned cell tower. State reimbursement for the department is expected to be \$40,000.

Transfer Station: \$66,676.

Health Agencies: \$46,448. Brattleboro Drop-In Center has asked for a \$1,000 increase as usage is up.

Welfare: \$77,118. The officer works 35 hours per week between three departments. This qualifies for health insurance which is a new expense of \$18,609 across the three departments.

Library: \$44,292.

Summer Program: \$43,231. Special Events were paid by a grant last year and it is not known if the money will be available this year.

Pool: \$48,048. Safety Equipment includes some purchases not made in 2009.

Prentiss Taylor Field: \$3,000.

Community Center: \$52,250. The Selectmen have asked for a listing of items needing repair. They are concerned some have been put off too long.

Economic Development: \$5,303.

Debt Service: Principal \$211,501, Interest \$49,395.

Mr. Sanderson moved to Tentatively Approve the items discussed. Mr. Hartnett seconded and passage was unanimous.

Ms. Schill voiced concern over the health care costs. She asked if we could pool with other towns and perhaps the Town should not pay the deductibles. Ms. Collins noted that we do pool with other towns and the \$33,000 put aside to cover deductibles actually saves because the premiums are reduced and routinely about half of that amount is refunded as usage is not that high.

Ms. Collins passed out the Town capital Improvements Plan Summary as information for members. This will help in understanding long range plans.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 11, 2010 at 6:30 in the Town Hall for initial review of the School District budget. This is pending receipt of the proposal from Mr. Mitchell and distribution to members.

Also, a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 6:30 in the High School Library to discuss the district budget with the School Board.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Peter W. Zavorotny
Recording Secretary