

Present: Dorianne Almann, Bruce Bellville, Morris Klein, Lewis Major, James MacDonell, School Board Rep Tina McCosker, and Peter Zavorotny. Selectmen's Rep Bill Nebelski sat with and did not vote as a Budget Committee member. Excused: Michael Carrier and Joe Conroy. Absent: Paul Bornkessel.

The committee met with the Selectmen and budget discussion began at 6:30pm.

With Ann Diorio present, the Parks budget was discussed; Selectmen Mike Darcy spoke up, saying Summer Programs (account 014589.1). TA Collins said increases in salaries would be seen. Ms. Diorio noted that on average, 100 kids/day take part in the program. TA Collins said that the program must have counselors to handle the numbers of kids. The town is now paying for bus trips as HCC can no longer do so. Ms. Diorio said that the Hinsdale After School Program wants to offer a before and after school program; 7-8:30/9:45am for the former and 3-6pm for the latter. TA Collins said Summer Program is extended for one extra week.

Mr. Zavorotny asked about the program's length. Ms. Diorio replied that it's seven weeks now and the group is looking at eight weeks. Mr. Darcy asked about supplies, questioning whether \$2,500 has ever been used. Ms. Diorio replied the money will be used this year to replace supplies damaged by water.

Ms. Diorio noted that \$5,000 that should be in the budget isn't; "add \$4,500 to Special Programs." Mr. Darcy asked if the town wasn't supposed to get a break; TA Collins replied she's looking into the matter. She continued, saying that more help needed to be hired due to the number of children. Ms. Diorio said the six week long program will be extended to seven. She said parents want an evening program. The cost is now \$150/attendee. The cost will increase about \$25/person. Scholarships are offered.

Mr. Zavorotny said that the program is expensive at roughly \$488/head. Ms. McCosker spoke up, saying 75% of the kids are on reduced cost lunch. "If kids didn't come to the program, many wouldn't eat." Ms. Diorio noted that many kids have breakfast, lunch, and snacks for 5 days/week, thanks to the program.

Mr. MacDonell wondered about the pool. Liz Boggio said an awning for \$5,500 was added to the budget. Two are being considered—one over the kiddie pool, the other over the main pool. Umbrellas cost about \$75 each and they don't last long due to wind damage. Heavy cement umbrella stands must be moved out in the morning and back in at night when the pool closes. She talked about having to repair the handicapped railing as it came loose when an elderly swimmer was leaning on it to enter the pool. TA Collins warned about cracks in the pool. There's one down the middle of the pool that is not yet leaking.

Ms. Almann asked when the pool was built; in the late 1990's, TA Collins replied.

Ms. Diorio is looking to keep the pool open for 10 weeks as opposed to nine weeks—"until school opens." A family pass for the season costs \$50. The fee is \$2/person and \$3 for people out of state. Liz said the pool "sees a lot of use." People from Rolling Hills use it and water aerobics and other swim classes are held.

Mr. MacDonell asked if \$2,200 is enough for electricity. Frank Podlenski, Highway Superintendent, noted that the pool lights were on so the lights seem to be working. Ms. Diorio noted that the school went to swipe cards to address the issue of spare keys in circulation.

Mr. Darcy said the third account in Culture and Recreation, Community Events (4589), was requesting a budget of \$28,305. The salary for the Seasonal Director of Summer Program (4589) is in this budget. TA Collins said that Trunk or Treat may possibly be in this budget. The Chili Cook-off is here, too. There was no fall ball in Hinsdale or any of the surrounding towns, although the Summer Program director expects this to change next fall. Mr. Darcy said that the cost was just over \$3,000/week; now it's \$3,300/week. Ms. Diorio said that is due to the move to 10 weeks from nine weeks. Last year, when the Seasonal Director left, the life guard and head day care person got more money. Three life guards are needed; the pool gets busy with Day Camp kids and the public.

Mr. Zavorotny said he appreciates the value of the program but is concerned about its cost. He knows people are having trouble paying their taxes. Mr. Darcy spoke up, saying the budget was about \$80,000; now the request for next year is roughly \$140,000.

Liz said the town didn't have high school lifeguards; the lifeguards were college students. The pool stayed open a week longer. The shade cover she wants to buy is the same as the one in the kid's park. Ms. Diorio spoke about the programs' value; kids would have to be home alone otherwise. Mr. Gallagher noted that from a policing standpoint, Summer Program is valuable. Mr. Bellville agreed, but said the overall budget has "increased quite a bit." Responding to Mr. Bellville's observation, TA Collins said the actual operating budget for the town is up 2.9%.

The Selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Mr. Zavorotny asked if budget committee members had questions.

Mr. Major made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approve the three budgets; Summer Program \$61,356, Pool \$49,044, Community Events \$28,305. He was seconded by Mr. MacDonell. The motion passed with Mr. Bellville abstaining.

Mr. Darcy noted that Frank Podlenski, Highway Superintendent, was in the audience. TA Collins noted that funds were encumbered as per the department head as it was too late in the season for work to be done.

Mr. Zavorotny observed that salaries are up 6-1/2%. Mr. Podlenski replied this is the result of the new salary study. Health Insurance is up 3-1/2%. Overtime is up about \$6,000 as is Health Insurance and Retirement. Mr. Podlenski mentioned the brand new pay loader. Mr. Nebelski asked about the trackless. Mr. Podlenski replied it's the equipment used to clear sidewalks of snow.

Mr. MacDonell remarked that \$2,300 was spent on Equipment Rental last year; already this year \$1,800 has been spent.

Mr. Podlenski said there's about 20 tons of salt on hand.

The Selectmen tentatively approved the Highway Department budget.

Mr. MacDonell made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approves the Highway Department budget of \$622,515 and was seconded by Mr. Major. The motion passed with Mr. Bellville abstaining.

Mr. Darcy drew attention to Street Lighting (4316). Mr. Klein asked if the lights can be changed to LED's to save money. Mr. Darcy replied that a warrant would be needed as doing so would be expensive.

The Selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Zavorotny asked if there were further comments or questions. Mr. Major made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approve Street Lighting budget of \$26,500. He was seconded by Mr. Bellville and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Darcy said Solid Waste Collection (4323) was the next budget for discussion. The vendor held his price steady and added some services. Mr. Gallagher talked about the hazardous waste collection program in Keene. Mr. Nebelski noted he heard that people were turned away. Mr. Podlenski said the hazardous waste collection program will soon be able to take cell phones.

The Selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Bellville made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approves Solid Waste Collection budget of \$243,659 and was seconded by Mr. MacDonell. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Darcy said the next budget for discussion was the Transfer Station (4324).

Mr. MacDonell asked for an explanation of the closure expenses. TA Collins replied that money must be set aside by law. Mr. Klein asked what had happened to the scale? Mr. Podlenski replied that work had to be done on it. Mr. Darcy asked about overtime. This occurs when the department head is on vacation. TA Collins noted that when "things are put under part time, it doesn't get hit by retirement." Mr. Podlenski said the transfer station still accepts electronics, something that is no longer done by some jurisdictions. Vermont, for instance, no longer accepts such items.

The Selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. MacDonell made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approve \$68,529 as Transfer Station budget. Seconded by Mr. Major, the motion carried.

Cemeteries and Parks (4195) was the next budget discussed.

TA Collins noted the budget was down from last year.

The Selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Major made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approve the Cemeteries and Parks budget of \$18,446. He was seconded by Mr. MacDonell. The motion carried.

The next budget up for discussion was Prentis Field.

The Selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. MacDonell asked about what is planned for the field in terms of maintenance. TA Collins replied that the town is looking at “doing something with the sheds.”

Mr. MacDonell made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approve the Prentis Field budget of 1,650. He was seconded by Mr. Major. The motion carried.

Ms. Collins asked if members wanted to add anything via CIP (Capital Improvement Plan). Mr. Podlenski wondered if the 2008 truck should be replaced.

Mr. Darcy said the next budget for discussion was that of Executive (4130). Mr. Zavorotny commented that the “total is down some \$1,300.”

The Selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Major made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approves the 2015 estimated Executive budget of \$168,087. He was seconded by Mr. Bellville and the motion carried.

Mr. Darcy brought attention to the Election, Registration, Vital Statistics budget (4140.10) and explained that the budget is “up a bit due to salary and quite a few elections coming up.” He said the state used to pay for the computer. Mr. Zavorotny asked about tax election officials and TA Collins said they are not charged federal income tax.

The Selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

In answer to a question, Mr. Darcy said dog tags come out of office supplies.

Mr. Major made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approve the Election, Registration, Vital Statistics budget of \$57,324. He was seconded by Mr. MacDonell and the motion carried.

Mr. Darcy said the next budget to be discussed would be Financial Administration (4150.01). Mr. MacDonell recused himself, moving into audience seating. TA Collins said that the town did away with the full-time custodian. Computers went up a bit. Telephones went down. Lynn McLaughlin is the financial person. Mr. MacDonell said two computers are leased.

The Selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Major made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approves the Financial Administration budget of \$154,051. He was seconded by Ms. McCosker; the motion carried.

Mr. MacDonell returned following the vote.

Mr. Zavorotny asked why the Revaluation of Property (4152) is so high when it hasn't been spent. The next total revaluation takes place in 2017.

The Selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. MacDonell made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approves the Revaluation of Property budget of \$40,000. He was seconded by Mr. Major; the motion carried.

Legal Expenses was next discussed.

Mr. MacDonell requested that the Registry of Deeds line be bumped up to \$1,200 from \$1,000 bringing the total to \$38,700. The Selectmen approved that change.

The Selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Major made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approve the Legal Expenses at \$38,700. He was seconded by Mr. MacDonell; the motion carried.

Mr. Darcy said that in terms of the Planning & Zoning (4191) budget, "it's mainly salaries that account for the increase."

The Selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. MacDonell made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approve Planning & Zoning's budget of \$100,101. He was seconded by Mr. Major; the motion carried.

The building across the street from the town hall that formerly housed the Historical Society has no water. It's heated to 55 degrees via forced hot air and it has electricity. Its costs are borne by the General Government Buildings (4194) budget.

The Selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. MacDonell made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approve the General Government Buildings at \$74,722. He was seconded by Mr. Major and the motion carried.

Mr. Major said he thought Cemeteries and Parks (4195) had its own truck so why the vehicle expense line. Ms. Collins noted that an occasional need arises for use of another vehicle.

The Selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Bellville made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approve the Cemeteries and Parks budget of \$18,446. He was seconded by Mr. Major and the motion carried.

The Selectmen tentatively approved the Insurance budget with little discussion.

Mr. MacDonell made a motion that the Budget Committee tentatively approve the Insurance budget of \$36,276. He was seconded by Mr. Major and the motion carried.

TA Collins said that the Fire Department's budget would be discussed at the next joint meeting of the selectmen and budget committee (November 18; 6:30pm) in the police station. Fire Chief Jay Matuszewski will be present.

Budget committee adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorianne Almann
Secretary