

Present: Dorianne Almann, Bruce Bellville, Joseph Conroy, John Hartnet, Morris Klein, James MacDonell, Tina McCosker, Lewis Major, Bernie Rideout, Peter Zavorotny; Michael Carrier, initially excused, arrived at 6:49pm.

Mr. Zavorotny called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm in the Town Hall. He suggested holding off on the minutes from meeting 614 until the next meeting as most committee members did not have the opportunity to read them. He noted that Government Buildings, Police, Elections, and Welfare were among the budgets still needing tentative approval.

The committee started by discussing 4140, Election, Registration & Vital Statistics, \$54,325. Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively approve the budget. Mr. Rideout seconded and the motion carried.

General Government Buildings (4194) was next discussed. Mr. Bellville asked why custodian supplies is so high. TA Collins listed the items bought--cleaning supplies, toiletries, and general cleaning supplies. Mr. MacDonell said he would like to see the number come down, asking why another \$1,500 would be added? Mr. Conroy observed that the amount is double for the same amount of time. Last year's budget was \$2,900; that of 2008 was \$3,500; 2010 was \$3,200.

Mr. Hartnet made a motion to tentatively approve the General Government Buildings budget that was seconded by Mr. Rideout. The motion passed with Mr. Bellville voting Nay.

The Police Department (4210 series, \$917,526) was discussed.

Mr. Bellville observed that the budget has increased beyond inflation and the cost of living. TA Collins replied that the state used to make contributions to the retirement fund; however, now the town is responsible for 100%. Police uniforms are so old that they don't match the colors of the new ones so need to be replaced.

Mr. Schill spoke up as a citizen; in excess of \$39,000 has now been pushed down to the town. The prosecutor contribution increased to \$52,500, TA Collins said. She also reminded the committee that last year's budget was an 18 month budget.

Mr. MacDonell asked why does electric cost the same for the Town Hall and the Police Department, given the fact the buildings are of different. TA Collins replied that unnecessary lights are kept off in the Town Hall, the wiring has been updated in the Town Hall, and that there are two employees in the Town Hall who do not like florescent lights and keep their lights off whenever possible.

Mr. Bellville noted that money for Animal Control was added into the budget, then removed. TA Collins replied that she took it out before the budget went to the selectmen, knowing the selectmen would remove it.

Mr. Hartnet made a motion to tentatively accept the Police Department's budget; He was seconded by Mr. Conroy. The motion passed with Mr. Bellville voting Nay.

Fire Department (4220 series, \$163,610) was next discussed.

Mr. Zavorotny asked TA Collins if details on the extra hours put in by Chief Matuszewski were received? TA Collins said they hadn't and wouldn't be until time cards are received, something that will happen after the budget is approved.

Last year \$6,000 was put in for training for Fire Department personnel with another \$6,000 for this year. A First Responder course will be \$5,000. Mr. Major noted that this year maintenance is zero to which TA Collins replied that all maintenance has been lumped together and that the same was done with the cruisers.

Mr. Hartnet asked if the Fire Department plans on any articles? TA Collins replied that one for a brush truck is likely.

Mr. Hartnet said he saw officers without gloves and wanted to know if money should be included in the budget to buy gloves. TA Collins replied that the fire fighters have matching gloves to go with their uniforms and Mr. Major noted that the fire fighters have plenty of gloves.

Mr. Conroy made a motion to tentatively accept the Fire Department's budget; he was seconded by Mr. Hartnet. The motion passed with Mr. Bellville voting Nay.

Street Lighting (4316, \$22,000) was discussed.

Mr. Conroy asked if the town had shut off more lights than last year? TA Collins noted the town is looking into solar. Mr. Klein asked if the town had thought of LED lighting?

Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively accept the Street Lighting budget; he was seconded by Mr. Rideout. The motion passed unanimously.

The Welfare budget (\$15,166 for Welfare Administration; \$60,000 for Welfare Direct Assistance) was next discussed.

TA Collins noted that the town pre-buys oil and usually gets some money returned at the end of the year. Fuel assistance generally begins in December. The federal government has appropriated money. She noted that some kerosene companies have not yet received their credits. The Welfare budget was tabled.

Ms. Collins listed anticipated articles:

- Police station
- One or two cruisers, noting the selectmen are talking about leasing
- Vehicle for the Water Department
- Generator for the Glen Street well site
- Perimeter fencing for the North Hinsdale well
- Water Department telemetry

Possibly, grants from Homeland Security and the US Department of Agriculture will help pay for the generator and fencing. Warrant articles will be done by mid-January.

The School Budget was briefly discussed. Mr. Zavorotny noted that it is about \$1,900 less than last year's. The Budget Committee will meet with the School Board on January 16 at 6:30pm in the SAU building at the school.

TA Collins told the committee that agencies are the only items left. Last year the town voted to support two new ones with the Red Cross being one. No new agencies have applied to the town for support.

Mr. Zavorotny noted that the MS 1 report for 2012 is down from 2011. The tax rate can't yet be set. MS 5 is in the auditors' hands and the town is waiting to hear from them before the tax rate can be set; word from the auditors is expected to be received by last week in December.

Mr. Rideout's motion to adjourn that was seconded by Mr. Bellville passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Dorianne Almann
Recording Secretary