

Present: Dorianne Almann, Bruce Bellville, Michael Carrier, Joseph Conroy, John Hartnet, James MacDonell, Lewis Major, Morris Klein, Tina McCosker, Peter Zavorotny, Selectman Richard Schill

Mr. Zavorotny called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall. Mr. Bellville made a motion to accept the minutes for meeting 613 as printed that was seconded by Mr. Carrier. The motion carried with Messrs. Carrier, Conroy, Hartnet and Klein abstaining.

TA Jill Collins walked the committee through her December 5, 2012 memo she gave to the selectmen. The selectmen tentatively approved most of the budgets aside from Government Buildings, Streetlights, and Health Agencies. Items increasing in the budget were:

- NH Retirement: Saw a roughly 2% increase to employer contributions for employees, making the rate for 2013-15 10.77%. For police, the employer contribution amounted to about 6%, making the rate for 2013-2015 25.3%.
- Health Insurance: 8.4%
- Dental: 1.2%

The selectmen approved a 1% salary increase.

Responding to citizen complaints when the town clerk's office is closed due to Tammy Jean being away, town personnel are being transitioned. The TC's position was opened to 600 hours per year (with an increase in salary).

The part-time Financial Administrator's salary was increased to account for the increased hours for processing paperwork and deposits. The budget saw an increase of \$5,000 for armored car service, due to the fact the bank in Hinsdale closed.

Ms. Collins continued, noting that the town is due for a master plan update (\$15,180). Mr. Klein asked if Hinsdale hadn't just done an update? To which Ms. Collins responded the town had undergone a partial update and is now due for a full-blown update.

A mower was added to the Parks budget (\$3,800) to replace the 1972 mower Mr. Ling had been using.

The Police Department increased \$18,000 for retirement. The incentive program (\$3,000), based on training certificates received by officers, was put back in by the

selectmen. Mr. Schill pointed out that the regional prosecutor saw an increase of \$5,000. The cell tower fee charged is \$300 **per month**.

In terms of the Fire Department, the selectmen are working with Chief Matuszewski; the chief was asked to take off \$10,000. Hinsdale was fortunate to have a chief who lived in town. The new chief requested additional compensation as he's putting in 20 hours/week over and above his regular hours and there are new people who require training.

Mr. Zavorotny asked what the fire chief has been doing in those additional 20 hours; Ms. Collins replied that the chief will be detailing how that time is spent.

The Water Department will possibly have two warrant articles – a generator for the Glen Street well site (\$25,000) and perimeter fencing for the North Hinsdale wells (\$30,910). Mr. Klein pointed out that a portable generator is roughly half the cost of one that is stationary and the fact they can be put on a trailer and moved as needed is advantageous. Perhaps a grant through Homeland Security can help pay for the fencing around the well.

The Sewer is not finalized; Ms. Collins said she is putting together a spreadsheet.

Mr. Hartnet questioned the need for armed security, asking if someone from the town couldn't be bonded for bank deliveries? Ms. Collins replied that it is better from a safety standpoint to have a trained professional in the position. She has talked to Bank of New Hampshire about opening an office in town. The armed service is in town twice/week. Mr. Klein asked if she has talked to any credit unions? Mr. Zavorotny noted that credit unions do have membership requirements. Service Credit Union is huge and they might be an organization to approach.

Mr. Bellville noted that health insurance increased 8.4% and asked if the pay down is included. No, it is not, according to Ms. Collins; the pay down is \$20,000.

The financial person in town is also doing welfare. The hours are the same as last year; the difference is that the tasks have shifted slightly among personnel.

Overall, the town budget is down 2.18% from last year.

In response to no one having questions on the Executive budget of \$158,135, Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively accept the Executive budget. Mr. Bellville seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zavorotny moved to discussion of 4150, Financial Administration. This year's actual of \$85,484 vs. \$98,835 for next year. The armored car service, a bit more than \$2,000 for the tax collector, and a hefty increase in postage contributed to the increase. Mr. Hartnet made a motion to tentatively accept the Financial Administration budget. Mr. Carrier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Revaluation of Property was next discussed, with Mr. Zavorotny noting this year's actual was \$45,166 vs. \$37,000 for next year's budget. A cyclical update is being done that is set to start at the end of December. Twenty percent of the town has been looked at. Mr. Bellville noted that cyclical revaluations do not have to be done. However, as Ms. Collins explained, data are collected on a regular basis so values are based on current data. Mr. Carrier made a motion to tentatively accept Revaluation of Property budget. Mr. MacDonell seconded. The motion passed with one Nay (Mr. Bellville).

Legal Expenses with this year's budget of \$83,500 compared to \$63,500 for last year was next discussed. Public Service is challenging 80 towns re: poles. Ms. Collins attended a meeting with representatives from other towns to discuss hiring a single lawyer. Hinsdale is facing an \$18,000,000 valuation challenge. Vernon Dam is also another issue. Hinsdale settled with FairPoint.

Mr. MacDonell asked why the lawyer's costs were so high last year?

Ms. Collins replied that the lawyer handled FairPoint's bankruptcy and was paid one percent of the fight.

Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively accept the Revaluation of Property budget. Mr. Hartnet seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zavorotny noted that Planning & Zoning, the next account discussed, had a budget of \$85,439 last year vs. \$105,564 for next year. The Master Plan update and an increase in health insurance are the reason for the increase. Mr. Bellville expressed concern about the update. Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively accept the Planning & Zoning budget. Mr. Carrier seconded. The motion passed with one Nay (Mr. Bellville).

Parks was next discussed. Its budget for next year is \$30,263. The lawn mower is included. Mr. MacDonell asked for clarification on personnel; Ms. Collins replied that Dave Freitas is responsible for cemeteries and Leo Ling for Parks. Cemeteries at \$18,262 is down about \$3,000 from last year. Mr. Major spoke on the excellent job done by Mr. Ling, noting the amount of work he does. Mr. MacDonell asked about the big drop in part-time help. Mr. Freitas used to get paid hourly, Ms. Collins replied.

Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively accept the Parks & Cemeteries budget. Mr. Conroy seconded. The motion passed with one abstention (Ms. McCosker).

Heritage Park's \$4,800 budget was discussed. Its budget is down \$1,000 from last year. Mr. MacDonell made a motion to tentatively accept Heritage Park's budget of \$4,800, seconded by Mr. Carrier. The motion passed with one abstention (Ms. McCosker).

Insurance's budget is \$27,700. Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively accept the Insurance budget. Mr. Conroy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Ambulance budget of \$123,074 includes Mutual Aide and Rescue. There was no discussion before Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively accept the Ambulance budget. Mr. MacDonell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of the Fire Department budget was passed by as new information is expected.

Building Inspection, whose budget is \$33,460, was discussed. Selectmen are trying to get personnel to use the town car for cost containment. Mr. Hartnet made a motion to tentatively accept the Building Inspection budget. Mr. Carrier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Emergency Management's budget of \$33,671 is down about \$8,000 from last year. Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively approve Emergency Management's budget. Mr. Bellville seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The budget for 4311 and 4312 (Highway Department Administration and Highways and Streets) of \$586,339 is down \$30,000 from last year; an encumbered expense was carried over. The cost of the guard rails along Rt.119 across from Plain Road was lowered a bit.

Mr. Hartnet made a motion to tentatively accept the Highway Department Administration and Highways and Streets budget. Mr. Carrier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Street Lighting was passed as the committee did not receive budget information.

As Ms. Collins explained, Rubbish Removal (4323) which is solid waste collection, is now being taken directly to Springfield through an agreement with Triple T. Townspeople can now leave shredded paper in clear plastic bags on pick up days. Ms. Collins estimated that sale of the blue plastic garbage bags generates about \$100,000 for the town and that the bags pay for curbside pickup. Mr. Carrier made a motion to tentatively accept the Solid Waste Collection budget. Mr. Conroy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Health Officer of \$1,111 is up significantly from last year (\$705) due to mandatory training. In an effort to contain costs, rides to training sessions are shared with Chesterfield personnel. Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively accept the Health Officer budget. Mr. MacDonell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

After discussion, action on the Welfare budget of \$75,166 was held off. Mr. MacDonell feels the town does not have enough money in the budget and the fiscal year is not even half over. Ms. Collins felt revisiting the Welfare budget in January was appropriate.

Mr. Bellville asked why Library budget of \$45,883 is up from last year's budget of \$42,956. Ms. Collins replied that fuel costs are up. Mr. Zavorotny noted that increased hours of operation (6) are another reason. Mr. Major noted this means the library is open

from noon to 5pm now. Mr. Hartnet made a motion to tentatively accept Library budget. Mr. Conroy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The budget for Patriotic Purposes is \$1,850. Asked by Mr. Hartnet as to how the money is spent, Ms. Collins replied, "Mainly for Memorial Day." Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively accept the Patriotic Purposes budget. Mr. MacDonell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Summer Program (4589) was next discussed. Salary for last year was budgeted at \$30,000; \$39,000 was actually spent. Ms. Collins thinks the pool account was undercharged. Mr. Bellville asked about the increase; Ms. Collins replied the \$39,000 is "probably an accounting error." The Municipal Pool has a budget of \$35,514. Mr. Klein asked if the town makes any money on the snack shack; Ms. Collins replied the town does make some money on it.

Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively accept the Summer Program budget. Mr. Carrier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Community Center's budget of \$55,945 was not discussed before Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively accept the Community Center's budget. Mr. Carrier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Conservation Committee has a budget of \$500. Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively accept the Conservation Committee's budget. Mr. Conroy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

No money has been budgeted for the Energy Committee.

The Economic Development has a budget of \$2,106. Mr. Carrier made a motion to tentatively accept the Economic Development's budget. Mr. Major seconded. The motion passed with one Nay (Mr. Bellville).

Mr. Zavorotny asked Ms. Collins if the budget for Debt Service (4711) is complete; yes it is, she replied. She noted that several items are not yet due, as they are due in January, February, May, and June. The amount of \$146,921 is all the debit service for the year. Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively accept the Debt Service budget. Mr. Bellville seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Capital Outlay will be discussed at an upcoming Budget Committee meeting.

Water Distribution & Treatment (\$412,927) is up about \$9,000 due to repairs to radio and telemetry equipment, Mr. Zavorotny noted. These are FCC mandated. Only some articles are partly paid with General Fund monies. Mr. Zavorotny noted that the village tank is budgeted against debt service, but paid against N Hinsdale; this can be adjusted. Mr. Bellville asked Ms. Collins about lines 680 and 690 in the budget: When is the work

actually done and when can it be billed? Mr. Bellville also asked about engineering services. Money is put into the budget but not used. Mr. MacDonell asked when was money for engineering services last used? Ms. Collins did not know.

Mr. Hartnet made a motion to tentatively accept the Water Distribution & Treatment's budget. Mr. Carrier seconded. The motion passed with one Nay (Mr. Bellville).

Wastewater Treatment Plant (\$314,633) was next discussed.

Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively accept the Wastewater Treatment Plant budget. Mr. Conroy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zavorotny noted that this was the last budget to be discussed at the meeting; the Police Department and a couple of others remain. Ms. Collins is working on the warrant articles. Mr. Hartnet asked about the school budget. Mr. Zavorotny replied the committee will see that budget in January. Ms. McCosker noted the school committee is meeting the week of December 10.

Ms. Collins said tax rebates need to be examined--Vernon Dam still remains to be examined; as emergency in someone's family delayed action. She noted the \$18,000,000 million from Wal-Mart in 2012 "was nice." Mr. Bellville noted the town is looking at \$28,000,000 in abatements.

The next meeting is December 19, 2012 at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm after Mr. Major made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Mr. MacDonell.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorianne Almann
Recording Secretary