

Budget Committee Minutes #714
Monday, November 30, 2020

Present: Lindsey Blake; Mike Bomba; Ken Howe; Karen Johnson; Dennis Nadeau; Bill Nebelski; Lisa Prince; Smokey Smith; Peter Zavorotny; and Selectmen Rep Steve Diorio.

School Board Rep Holly Kennedy excused.

6:00 p.m. Meeting called to order.

The following members participated via ZOOM –Lindsey Blake and Peter Zavorotny.

The following department budgets were discussed:

Wastewater Treatment Plant – Robert Johnson was present. Johnson stated he needed to raise the Equipment Repair Line by \$10,000 for the replacement of a Mobile Trash Pump. The Trash Pump is used for transferring waste from one area to another and the current pump is beginning to fail and is 40 years old. The Selectmen approved raising the line to \$20,000 which increased the bottom line to \$407,675. Nebelski made **a motion to tentatively approve** the budget in the amount of \$407,675, second by Smith. Motion passes unanimously.

Johnson discussed the need to raise the Lines & Equipment Line by \$5,000 in order to continue monitoring the collection system. He explained the monitoring should be done on a yearly basis and was put off last year in order to repair a sewer line in the area of Kilburn Rd. Discussion took place with the committee about maintaining the bottom line and trying to find the \$5,000 elsewhere in the budget. Nebelski made **a motion to** add the \$5,000 to the Lines & Equipment Line and to tentatively approve the bottom line in the amount of \$412,675, second by Bomba. Motion passes unanimously.

Parks – Frank Podlenski was present. Podlenski stated that he reviewed the Parks budget and felt the Extra Help line could be lowered to \$10,420. He discussed the decrease in mowing this past year due to the dry season. He would like to paint the North Hinsdale School House. Discussion took place that the School House budget is under Government Buildings and there is \$1,000 for in the building & repairs line item. Therefore, Podlenski suggested lowering building & repairs by \$1,000. Smith made **a motion to tentatively approve** the Parks Budget in the amount of \$37,319, second by Howe. Motion passes unanimously.

Transfer Station – Discussion took place regarding the closure costs line item. It was explained that the amount is part of an agreement with DES for landfill closure for monitoring wells, etc. Nebelski made **a motion to tentatively approve** the Transfer Station budget in the amount of \$71,447, second Howe. Motion passes unanimously.

Highway Department – Topics discussed: Health Insurance & Retirement Increases; Propane; and Bank Run Gravel. Discussion took place on Salaries. Howe made **a motion to tentatively approve** the Highway budget in the amount of \$694,896, second by Prince. Motion passes unanimously.

Police Department – Chief Charles Rataj was present. The Chief discussed the following topics: Increase in retirement; the need for a part-time janitor; special details – offset with revenue; Animal Control Officer; and SRO position. It was pointed out that the computer line was reduced by \$4,400. Smith made a motion to tentatively approve the Police budget in the amount of \$1,483,923, second by Howe. Motion passes 7 – 1. Mike Bomba & Lisa Prince abstained.

Zavorotny discussed the responsibility of appointing an alternate to the Budget Committee as the BC responsibility.

Howe made **a motion to table the minutes** of November 18, 2020, #713, second by Nebelski. Motion passes unanimously.

7:48 p.m. Blake made **a motion to adjourn**, second by Nebelski. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Collins
Town Administrator