

Budget Committee Minutes #709
Wednesday, August 19, 2020

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

Excused: Ken Howe and School Rep Holly Kennedy.

Meeting called to order by acting Chair Zavorotny.

Minutes for meeting #704; #705; #706; #707; & #708 needed approval by the board. Diorio made **a motion to approve the slate of minutes**, second by Nebelski. Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion regarding the appointment of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman took place. Discussion among the board members included: the need to stay on schedule; to focus on the task at hand; and who would be interested in being the Chairman. Peter is willing to stay on as Vice-Chair to assist training a new Chairman. Nadeau made **a motion to wait until the August 26th meeting to decide**, second by Smith. Motion passes unanimously.

TA Collins reviewed the handouts with the Committee.

The first handout was the Comparative Statement of Appropriations & Expenditures. It was noted that the expense of \$225,000 for the brush truck has not been made and the \$30,000 in revenues from USDA as a grant has not been received yet.

Executive – the over expended amount of \$32,607 is due to the change of a part-time position to a full-time position. The change increased the salary and various benefits lines.

Election, Registration, & Vital Statistics – the over expended amount of \$235,931.57 is due to the Town Clerk changing motor vehicle registrations from two check system to a one check. Motor vehicle fees are collected for the town and state with one check. An ACH payment is made to the state daily. The state fees will be reported as a revenue to offset the expense.

Police – A balance of over \$300,000 remaining at year end. This is due to low staffing. The town has just hired three new officers and is looking at a fourth officer. The town did hire MRI (Municipal Resource Inc) to do the police chief search and hired an interim chief to assist in getting through the transition. The town also had contracted police coverage by the State Police and Chesterfield. There will be a need to replace police cruisers in the next budget cycle. Majority of cruisers are 2014 and are beginning to have problems.

Sanitation – Solid waste collection is a combination of the contract for curbside pickup and tipping fees for disposing of waste. A new three-year contract has been awarded. The first-year is for approximately \$170,000. There is a slight increase per year thereafter.

Debt Service – there may be an adjustment to be made between the General Fund and the Water Department. Collins will look into this.

The committee reviewed the second handout titled the Comparative Statement of Revenues. Interest and Penalties on Delinquent Taxes was explained as being interest on past due taxes and redemption fees. The state fees were noted under Revenue from Licenses, Permits, & Fees. The SRO match from the School District was noted as revenue for the Police.

The third handout was reviewed by the committee regarding uncollected taxes for 2019 which was taken from the Tax Collector's Report (MS61) for fiscal year end June 2020. It was noted, that the payments to the school and county are paid in full even though there are uncollected taxes.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of zooming meetings and to start meetings at 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m.

Diorio made **a motion to begin the meetings at 6:00 p.m.**, second by Nebelski. Motion passes unanimously.

7:35 p.m. Nebelski made **a motion to adjourn**, second by Blake. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Collins
Town Administrator