

## Budget Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes #686

Wednesday, January 17, 2017

Present: Meghan Bassett; Lindsey Blake; Joseph Conroy; Kayla Hemlow; James MacDonell; Lewis Major; William Nebelski; Edwin Smith; School Board Rep – Sean Leary; Selectman Rep – Steve Diorio.

The Selectmen moved to a closed meeting and the Budget Committee addressed other items.

6:30 p.m. Chairman Zavorotny called the meeting to order.

Leary moved to accept minutes for meetings 684 and 685, second by Hemlow. Motion carries unanimously.

School Board Chair Kennedy and Business Administrator O'Connor attended to discuss two warrant articles for the district.

The first was for the costs associated with the latest support staff contract. Kennedy noted that the percentages were 5.55% for the first year, 4.23% for the second year and 3.95% for the third year. O'Connor noted that the estimated costs presented in the article were \$57,090, \$46,152 and \$44,832 respectively. Kennedy noted that the higher amounts in the first two years were to bring the rates to a level more competitive with area districts. Smith moved to recommend the article, second by Major. Motion carries unanimously.

The second item was to revise the operating budget article to include two additional expenses. The first is \$450,000 which is the first state building aid payment associated with the elementary school addition state offset by a matching income entry. The second is for \$760,000 in food service costs. This is offset by various revenues from grants to food payments. This brings the total to \$13,736,555. Smith moved to recommend, second by Nebelski. Motion passes unanimously.

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Chairman Zavorotny passed out updated school budget.

Conroy made a motion to approve minutes #863 second by Smith. Motion carries unanimously.

Chairman Zavorotny informed the board the sign up for election is between January 24<sup>th</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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The following budgets were reviewed.

**Community Events** – Discussion took place regarding the salary line item which was the original amount proposed in the amount of \$15,906.

MacDonell made a motion to tentatively approve the Community Events budget in the amount of \$21,393, second by Nebelski. Motion carries unanimously.

**Capital Outlay** – MacDonell made a motion to tentatively approve the Capital Outlay budget in the amount of \$71,520, second by Nebelski. Motion carries unanimously.

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Leary requested a revisit of the Financial Administration budget. Discussion took place regarding the Tax Collector's Salary and why the amount requested by the tax collector was changed. It was explained the Tax Collector compensation is based on a policy adopted by the legislative body. He is on Grade 7 and receives the annual cost of living as approved by the Board of Selectmen. The amount in the budget is based on his current salary plus a 1.5% cost of living. The 1.5% cost of living is across the board to all elected officials. In order to increase his salary, he would need to speak to the Selectmen regarding updating his compensation policy which will need to go before the legislative body.

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Discussion took place regarding the Police Department for a server. Chief Faulkner was present and explained that Task Force work for other communities is not stored on the server, the case is returned to the community and it is there responsibility to store the information. He currently works on cases on his own time and if an officer works on a case, it is billed to the task force.

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The following warrant articles were reviewed and acted on:

**Article #4** - To raise the sum of \$4,153,041 for the general operating expenses of the Town. Leary made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by MacDonell. Motion carries 11-0.

**Article #5** - To raise the sum of \$552,498 for the operations of the Water Department. Leary made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by MacDonell. Motion carries 11-0.

**Article #6** - To raise the sum of \$378,971 for the operations of the Sewer Treatment Plant. Nebelski made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by MacDonell. Motion carries 11-0.

**Article #7** – To raise the sum of \$210,000 for purpose of purchasing a brush truck for the Fire Department. Funding for this article will be raised from the capital reserve and grant monies. If no grant monies received, the article will not get funded. Leary made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by Hemlow. Motion carries 11-0.

**Article #8** - To raise the sum of \$80,000 to be added to the Fire Apparatus Fund. Leary made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by Major. Motion carries 11-0.

**Article #9** - To raise the sum of \$52,750.00 for the purpose of replacing the roof on the dry beds located at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Leary made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by MacDonell. Motion carries 11-0.

**Article #10** - To raise the sum of \$50,000 for the to be added to the Fire Station Building Fund. Leary made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by MacDonell. Motion carries 11-0.

**Article #11** - To raise the sum of \$50,000 to create an expendable trust for the School Street Improvement Project. Nebelski made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by Leary. Motion carries 11-0.

**Article #12** - To raise the sum of \$32,000 for the to be added to the Fire Department Breathing Apparatus Fund. Nebelski made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by Leary. Motion carries 11-0.

**Article #13** - To raise the sum of \$24,473 for the update of the Town Clerk's compensation schedule. Nebelski made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by Major. Motion carries 11-0.

MacDonell made a motion to approve Articles 14 – 19 as printed. With no second, the motion died.

**Article #14** – To raise the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Town Hall Improvement Fund. Nebelski made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by MacDonell. Motion carries 11-0.

**Article #15** – To raise the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Municipal Pool Fund. Smith made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by MacDonell. Motion carries 11-0.

**Article #16** – To raise the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Field House Improvement Fund. MacDonell made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by Blake. Motion carries 11-0.

**Article #17** – To raise the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Community Center Building Improvement Fund. MacDonell made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by Blake. Motion carries 11-0.

**Article #18** – To raise the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Communication Expendable Trust Fund. MacDonell made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by Blake. Motion carries 11-0.

**Article #19** – To raise the sum of \$5,000 to support the Hinsdale Historical Society. MacDonell made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by Blake. Motion carries 9-0, Nebelski and Smith abstained.

**Article #20** – To raise the sum of \$1,908 to support the MCVP Crisis and Prevention Center. MacDonell made a motion to approve the warrant article, second by Hemlow. Motion carries 11-0.

The Budget Committee will meet again with the to review the tax rate January 22nd at 6:30 at the Police Department.

8:21 p.m. MacDonell made a motion to adjourn, second Blake. Motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Collins  
Town Administrator