

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes #699

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Present: Lindsay Blake; Joe Conroy; Karen Johnson; Megan Kondrat; James MacDonell; Bill Nebelski; Lisa Prince; Peter Zavorotny; School Rep – Sean Leary; Selectmen Rep – Steve Diorio.

Excused: Edwin Smith

Selectman Present: Mike Darcy; Wayne Gallagher; Mike McCosker; Bernie Rideout

6:00 p.m. Meeting called to order

TA Collins reviewed the handouts with the committee. The handouts included the following draft documents: Town Warrant; Public Hearing Handout; Estimated Revenues; Projected Tax Rate; and Capital Improvement Plan.

Discussion took place regarding the effects of the current draft warrant on the tax rate.

Warrant Articles were discussed as follows:

Article #2 – Operating Budget

MacDonell made a **motion** to recommend Article #2 in the amount of \$4,283,427, second by Leary. Motion fails – 4 yes; 5 no.

Nebelski made a **motion** to decrease the PD budget by 5% and to decrease all other department budgets by 3%, second by Prince. Discussion took place regarding the reduction of the budgets and the exact amount that would be. Selectman Darcy gave a rough estimate of \$151,440. Some committee members voiced concerns that a random cut of 3% would hit the smaller departments like summer programs harder.

Nebelski made a **motion** to withdraw his motion, second by Prince.

Nebelski made a **motion** to decrease the budget by 2%, second by Conroy. Discussion took place. Selectman Rideout indicated the overall decrease would be approximately \$85,669. Selectman Darcy noted that decreases should come from non-essential items like the municipal pool, community events, patriotic purposes. The decision rests with the selectmen. Also discussed were the effects on the Fund Balance. The tighter the budget, the less opportunity for funds available at year end to offset taxes. Chairman Zavorotny noted the budget has been reviewed line by line by the committee in earlier meetings.

A vote was called on the decrease. Motion failed. 4 yes, 5 no.

Nebelski (previously voted No.) made a **motion** to reconsider Article #2 as written, second by Johnson (previously voted No.) Motion passes 5 yes, 4 no.

Nebelski made a **motion** to recommend Article #2, second by Johnson. Motion passes 5 yes/4 no.

Article #3 – Water Dept. Operating Budget

MacDonell made a motion to recommend Article #3 in the amount of \$573,723, second by Leary. Motion passes 9 – 0.

Article #4 – Wastewater Treatment Plant Operating Budget

MacDonell made a **motion** to recommend Article #4 in the amount of \$380,835, second by Conroy. Motion passes 9 – 0.

Article #5 – Brush Truck

Nebelski made a **motion** to recommend Article #5 as written, second by Blake. Motion passes 9 – 0.

Article # 6 was stricken by the Selectmen.

Article #7 – Highway Truck

MacDonell made a **motion** to recommend Article #7 as written, second by Nebelski. Motion passes 9 – 0.

Article #8 – Highway Garage Roof

Nebelski made a **motion** to recommend Article #8 as written, second by MacDonell. Motion passes 9 – 0.

Article #9 – Water Department Truck

Blake made a **motion** to recommend Article #9 as written, second by MacDonell. Motion passes 9 – 0.

Article #10 - #12 stricken by the Selectmen.

Article #13 – Breathing Apparatus

MacDonell made a **motion** to recommend Article #13 as written, second by Nebelski. Motion passes 9 – 0.

Article #14 - #17 Stricken by the Selectmen.

Article #18 – Welfare Expendable Trust

MacDonell made a **motion** to recommend Article #18 as written, second by Nebelski. Motion passes 9 – 0.

Article #19 – Purchase Mower

Blake made a **motion** to recommend Article #19 as written, second by Prince. Motion passes 9 – 0.

Article #20 – Summer Program Lunch Expendable Trust

MacDonell made a **motion** to recommend Article #20 as written, second by Blake. Motion passes 9 – 0.

Article #21 – Closing Trust Funds

This was to clear some funds left from specific projects and return them to the general fund.

MacDonell made **a motion** to recommend Article #21 as written, second by Blake. Motion passes 9 – 0.

Discussion was made about placing a warrant article on the warrant to reduce conservation funds monies from current use tax to a cap of \$10,000 annually.

Discussion took place regarding Conflict of Interest.

Diorio made **a motion** to approve the minutes #696, #697, #698, second by Nebelski. Motion passes unanimously.

Leary passed around a letter addressed to the Governor; and Hinsdale's Senate and State Representatives regarding concerns with education funding.

MacDonell made **a motion** for the Budget Committee to sign the letter, second by Blake. Motion passes unanimously.

Chairman Zavorotny reminded the committee that the public hearing is on February 5th and wanted to make sure there would be a quorum.

Chairman Zavorotny reminded the committee that the time to cut budgets is during individual department review.

7:40 p.m. Nebelski **made a motion** to adjourn, second by Blake. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Collins, Town Administrator