

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 3, 2018

Present: Chairman Diorio, Selectmen Darcy, McCosker, Gallagher and Rideout; and T.A. Collins and Kim Worden.

Budget Committee was present for discussion with Selectmen on Budgets.

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

Election Budget with an amount of \$65,955 was discussed. Selectman Rideout made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Election Registration and Vital Statistics Budget in the amount of \$65,955, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

Police Department Budget was further discussed. Chief Faulkner was present for discussion. He noted the figure of \$1,385,193 did not include the lease amount for the server needed for cases they are mandated to retain. It was noted that this has to be added to the operating budget, since it is mandatory. It was also noted that the alternative would be to put information on hard drives but that could fail and the Town would be liable. There are hopes to get the law changed. Chief Faulkner indicated that this issue is at the Attorney General's office and has been brought up at meetings. It should be reviewed this year. Questions also included the computer line item and Regional Prosecutor line items. Edwin Smith asked whether increase in overtime was discussed. Chief Faulkner stated that it was an estimated guess. Selectman Darcy asked if there was something we can do to try and prevent another 10% increase next year, understanding that there isn't anything we can do about certain items. Chief Faulkner felt that officers were an increase and next year that should be level-funded again. Chair Diorio asked about the possibility of needing 11 officers in the future and asked how Chief Faulkner felt about current morale and retention. Chief Faulkner felt morale is the highest it's been. Rotating shifts every four months has helped change that. Also, they are running more than 1 officer on shifts. They can free-up to go to other calls and their caseloads are more even. He also indicated that every town but Swanzey is down officer and recruiting for more money. Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Police Department Budget in the amount of 1,390.993, second by Gallagher. Motion passes unanimously.

For **Health Agencies**, it was pointed out that the Community Kitchen amount is down. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to tentatively approve Health Agencies Budget in the amount of \$49,843, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

T.A. Collins indicated that she had looked at the previous seasonal director's hours due to the previous questions re: Seasonal Director on **Community Events Budget**. The average was 15 hours per week. Discussion followed. The current Budget reduced seasonal salary to \$11,200, FICA to 695 and Medi. to 162. Matt Palmer indicated that the original amount was to provide coverage for the Seasonal Director to increase percentage of hours to have four seasons rather than two seasons. Matt replied to a question that he has 20-25 hours per week now. Selectman McCosker made a motion to tentatively approve the Community Events Budget in the amount of \$15,863. There was no second. Motion failed. Discussion continued with members of the Budget Committee re: seasonal director matters. T.A. Collins

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indicated this was not the time or place to discuss personnel issues. It was pointed out that this was a budget issue. Selectman Darcy made a motion to table the Community Events Budget, second by Gallagher. The vote is as follows: Gallagher-I, Darcy-I, Diorio-I, and McCosker-I; Rideout-No. Motion carries.

CDBG Budget – Economic Development in the amount of \$2588 was discussed. T.A. Collins noted that there was an old revolving loan fund from CDBG from years ago that had money left. She noted that she had suggested to Selectmen that the people doing plantings (Beautification Committee under Parks and Rec) might use this for their budget for plantings; this money was not from the taxpayers and plantings may attract more business and people to town. Discussion included that eventually when the money is gone we would need to revisit this. Sean noted that there has been controversy on this matter and right now it is a good way of taking care of some of that. Jill indicated this would track expenses too. There was also a question on the \$588 item. It was clarified that was for the Community Development Telephone (one of the numbers at Town Hall). Selectman Gallagher made a **motion** to tentatively approve the Economic Development Budget in the amount of \$2588, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Debt Service was looked at. Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to tentatively approve Debt Service Budget in the amount of \$127,665, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

It was mentioned that the next Budget Committee Meeting with the School Board would be Thursday, January 11th.

Bill Nebelski re-introduced the Patriotic Purposes Budget and mentioned that the mounts for the flags have been breaking due to the wind and there are only four flags left. He would be willing to make the mounts to be bolted to the poles. They would last a minimum of 20 years and he would make 30 mounts. The materials are roughly \$300 and this needs to be done before May, which isn't in this budget. The possibility of perhaps putting some service flags on the Community Center, to be taken down at night, was mentioned too. Smokey suggested that he could make a request to the Lions Club if Bill could get him a number in writing.

Chair Diorio pointed out an error in the Highway Budget handout. It was clarified that it should be 624,426. Smokey then had a paving question, answered by T.A. Collins. He also mentioned the lack of lighting at the Police Station's beautiful facility. Bill Nebelski brought up the possibility of changing the street lights to LED. Jill can look into it but noted it would be costly.

It was agreed that the next Budget meeting will be Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30 at the P.D to go over Community Events and Warrant Articles.

Budget Committee adjourned.

Selectman McCosker made a **motion** to approve the public minutes of December 18, 2017 and the Manifests of December 26, 2017 and January 2, 2018, second by Darcy. Motion passes unanimously.

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Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to have the Chair approve and sign the Permit Application for TNT for Annual Permit to Sell, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Selectman Darcy made a **motion** to have the Chair sign the Irrevocable Letter of Credit for Yankee Farm Credit re: Wayne C. Corse, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Chair Diorio noted the upcoming Bridge Public Hearing and had spoken with Matt. He feels it's imperative to have audio for that. Jill will see to that.

He also reflected on the recent bad fire at Thicket Hill and pointed out that Ashley Pinger did an awesome job of looking for the missing dog and also commended the Fire Department.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Sean Leary mentioned that for Town Meeting, the School Board is to notice for 11:30 if agreeable. There were no concerns.

7:56 p.m. Selectman Darcy made a **motion to adjourn**, second by McCosker. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden,
Secretary