

BUDGET COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 5, 2008

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

Budget Committee members present: B. Manning, Ken Jacques, John Trachy, Bill Sullivan, Darrin Patten, Dave Tucker, Rick Kidder, Jon Poston, and Bob Anderson, Selectman ex-officio member.

Selectmen present: John Chiarella and Neal Huntoon

Others present: Tim Julian, Police Chief; Dallas Patten, Fire Chief; Doug Davis, Assistant Chief; Tom Duling, Trudy Heath, Dick Kipperman, Pete Neilsen, Harriet Callaway, Leah Callaway, and Gerry Cooper.

A Bond Hearing to begin at 7:00 p.m. prior the Budget Committee meeting was scheduled. As a quorum of Selectmen was not yet present, B. called the Budget Committee meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The roll was called.

Minutes: The minutes of January 29, 2008 were unanimously approved.

At 7:05 p.m. the Budget Committee agreed to table the budget meeting to allow the Selectmen to open the Public Bond Hearing.

At 7:25 p.m., the Public Bond Hearing was closed and the Budget meeting was reopened with discussion and review of proposed warrant articles.

Article 2

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Forty Five Thousand Dollars (\$245,000) (gross budget) for the purchase and original equipping of a new fire truck, and to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five year purchase agreement for such, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Seven Thousand Six Dollars (\$27,006) for the first year's payment for that purpose.

Discussion of gross appropriation and purchase agreement. The Budget Committee unanimously agreed to recommend this article.

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) to purchase and install two welcome signs at two locations in the Town of Springfield.

Bill Sullivan reported the purpose of this article is to complete the action directed at last year's town meeting to investigate signs. These signs would also inform the public of the website. The website is becoming a better tool in getting information out to all people,

but many people are not aware that it exists. Neal stated the Selectmen have discussed this appropriation and are not unanimously in favor of this article. John stated that they agreed to place the article on the warrant to let the public decide. Following discussion, the majority of budget committee members were not in favor of this article.

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of up to One Hundred Dollars (\$100) for library use and authorize the use of that amount from the interest income earned from the Libbie A. Cass Library's bank checking account of its annual budget. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to allow the library to keep and spend any interest earned on their checking account of its annual budget.

Articles 4 and 5 are housekeeping articles; a majority of the Board was in favor of recommending these.

Article 6

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million One Hundred Fifty Thousand Nine Hundred Nine Dollars (\$1,150,909) or as amended, for general municipal operations of the Town. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed.

The Board agreed to table the discussion of Article 6 until they have finished their review of budget appropriations.

Budget Review:

The Selectmen presented an amended budget with reductions made to several budget line items. Board members reviewed and discussed the changes.

John Trachy presented possible budget reductions. The Board reviewed and discussed his proposals.

The Board then reviewed the total proposed budget appropriations MS-7 report.

Total requested year 2007: 1,076,459
2007 actual: 1,135,871 April 2007 storm damage expenses and revenue were discussed.

Total requested year 2008: 1,150,909 this reflects a 7% increase over last year's projected budget.

John Trachy discussed with the Board his concern with the continuous yearly increase in the operating budget.

John Chiarella stated the budget reflects adjustments to areas that need attention and costs there is no recourse for.

Board members then voted in favor of recommending the appropriation of \$1,150,909, the total operating budget for 2008. Warrant article 6 was recommended.

The Board voted to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant