

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**JANUARY 6, 2009**

## **MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**7:00 P.M.**

*The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.*

Present: B. Manning, Ken Jacques, Bill Sullivan, John Trachy, Dave Tucker, and John Chiarella. Rick Kidder and Darrin Patten arrived a few minutes later. Absent: Jon Poston. Selectmen in attendance: Don Hill, and Neal Huntoon. Also in attendance: Leigh Callaway, Trudy Heath, Cynthia Anderson, and Tim Julian.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. and the roll was called.

Minutes: Ken moved to accept the minutes of December 2, 2008 as written, seconded by John Trachy and unanimously approved.

Building Needs Committee: Cynthia Anderson requested money to be included for engineering costs to review expansion of the Police Department. She questioned the status of the study that was to be done at the safety complex. Neal reported the engineer has been to the site to define wetland areas etc. It has been determined it is not possible for a police building on that site. Neal discussed the possibility of another piece of property becoming available. Cynthia reported the Building Needs Committee had agreed their priority was increased space for the Police. They have not continued meeting because they felt there was no way to go.

Neal explained that some of the engineering fees appropriated in 2008 were to study the drainage problems, and to relocate the sand and salt storage building. Money will be needed to continue the engineering for that purpose.

### **Police Department:**

Tim Julian, Police Chief, met with the Budget Committee to review 2009 appropriations. Tim stated the Highway Department is looking for a new truck this year. The Selectmen have discussed the possibility of another used truck versus a new truck. If the Selectmen go for a used truck he felt this would be a good year to replace the Explorer. A three-year lease on a Ford Taurus would be \$7935 with a \$1.00 buyout at the end of the lease. The Taurus would be AWD with the added fuel economy versus an SUV. The Explorer currently has 99,682 miles on it and is due for replacement. All the equipment in the Explorer can transition to a Taurus except for the light bar. After discussion regarding the cruiser, the Board discussed individual line items with Tim. Police facility needs were discussed.

### **Highway Department:**

Brad Butcher, Road Agent met with the Board. Appropriations were reviewed. John Trachy questioned reclamation projects? Brad stated he does not have plans to do any major reclamation projects in 2009. He will concentrate on shim and ditch work. The highway capital improvement project list needs to be adjusted accordingly. Bridge issues were reviewed.

The Board reviewed the issue of a new truck. Brad discussed the specifications for the new truck. He has a price of \$74,600 for an International Cab and Chasis and \$62,000 for a Tenco body which includes a plow, and wing. The black truck (H3) would most likely be sold. The white International (H2) would be used as the spare truck.

Neal reported the black truck was purchased to eliminate the need for contract plowing. It was purchased for \$13,000 with sanders and plows and was intended for 2-3 years of use. This is the third winter plowing with it. It is beginning to have some problems. The Selectmen have been discussing appropriating roughly \$30,000 in the highway operating budget for a newer used truck. This would give them the summer and fall to look for another truck. The Board discussed these options. Concern was expressed that this might put the Town in a situation where both trucks would require replacement at the same time. The Board discussed the highway equipment replacement schedule. Questions were raised about replacement of the loader. Brad agreed a used loader could most likely be found when the time comes.

#### Fire Department:

Erik Rollins and Dallas Patten presented 2009 appropriations. The new fire truck is in service and is working out well. They were able to buy all the hose they needed for the new truck. They were able to replace 700 feet of hose on the tanker. They have appropriated \$1500 needed to buy the additional 300 feet in 2009 budget. Erick reported he has researched the possibility of using a heavy-duty household washer, and has been told it is not recommended for this type of use. The turn-out gear would be too heavy when wet and the washer would not hold up. He presented information and prices for commercial washers. He explained new safety vests, cones, and traffic paddles are required by a federal (unfunded) mandate effective 11/08 which they need to purchase. In addition, the SCBA bottles and masks need to be tested. There are no "wish list" items in their new equipment request. The request for a washer was discussed at length. Turn-out gear is not being cleaned properly. A new set of gear costs about \$2,000. Currently, they usually wash the gear in the utility sink. There is a loss of use while the gear dries. Taking gear to another department was discussed. It is not a favorable option as it means another town's equipment and personnel to have to be available. Dallas reported septic issues have been addressed, and are not an issue. John Chiarella stated he would like to see the difference in the warranties between the lower end and the higher end commercial washer. Erik will get that information for the next meeting.

#### Budget Expenditures:

The Board reviewed other appropriations for 2009. Long-term lease of the space for the Kindergarten was discussed. The Budget Committee would like to have the Selectmen discuss this with the Superintendent.

Neal reported the Sand and Salt shed replacement needs to be addressed. The fuel situation at the highway garage has been corrected with a tank for vehicles moved outside. At some point the heating system at the safety complex building will need to be replaced, and he would like a chip burning furnace to be considered.

Leigh Callaway reported on the activity of the Municipal Budget Committee. The School Board is recommending a 5.9% increase in the budget and the MBC is recommending 4.23%. He explained the differences recommended. At issues is State funding for building aid, which represents one million dollars in revenue to the district.

Cost of Living Adjustments:

John reported the Board of Selectmen had voted not to recommend any Cost of Living Adjustments or raises this year. John Chiarella stated Brad has spoken to him about increases for his two employees. Neal would like to reopen this for discussion at the next Selectmen's meeting. Don discussed the reasons for not doing any adjustments this year. Insurance rates are level with last year, and the Board has agreed to continue insurance contributions at the current level. They have researched alternative options, but there is essentially no costs savings.

B. asked that revenue figures be available for the next meeting.

The Board voted to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Roberts,  
Administrative Assistant