

Budget Committee  
November 9, 2016  
7:00PM  
Town Office/Police Station Conference Room  
Approved: November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Susan J. MacKenzie, Richard Jones, Greg Lange, Wilkes McClave, Phil Barta, Erik Colbeck, Eric Furstenberg. Select board member: Jay Smith & Patricia G. Jenks. Administrative Assistant: Dina Cutting. Library Trustees: Patty Hudson, Beth Taylor and Dan Parish. Tax Collector: Marci O'Keefe. Police Chief: Shaun O'Keefe. Community members: Mr. & Mrs. Roby.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chair Brotman.

1. Ms. Brotman asked for any public comments at this time. Ms. Roby asked if the meeting had been advertised. There were no other comments.
2. Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting, as corrected. Seconded by Ms. MacKenzie. Voted unanimously in favor.
3. Proposed 2017 Town budget:  
The Budget Committee reviewed the general budget and asked questions on the following items:
  - Executive, Elections, Legal, Insurance, Planning & Zoning.
  - Ms. MacKenzie reviewed a proposed new building & grounds position. This is proposed to be a 20-30 hour position. This person would be doing a variety of jobs from cleaning town buildings, painting, making small repairs, shoveling, etc.
  - Other general Government: The retired police cruiser will be kept at the Town highway garage and will be used to by town employees to make parts runs, or to go to educational seminars and meetings.
  - Police: The proposed budget includes salary increase of 1.1% for the Chief and officer. Chief O'Keefe reviewed the issues he sees with police wage challenges. The competition in the Upper Valley for police officers is strong, with most other area towns paying higher wages and having additional salary incentives.
  - Ambulance, Fire, Highway were all reviewed. Ms. MacKenzie reviewed some slides pertaining to costs associated with culvert replacement.
  - Several potential warrant articles for the 2017 Town Meeting were reviewed.
  - The Select Board is proposing special gravel roads projects be delayed due to funding issues. Paved roads' preservation will continue.
  - Ms. MacKenzie reviewed the various projects proposed to be considered at Town Meeting.
  - Library: The Selectmen have proposed the town-wide 1.1% wage increase for Library employees. The Library Trustees spoke about their proposed wage increase for the Librarian and Library employees. It is responsibility of the Trustees to set wages for Library employees. The Trustees respectfully request the Select Board to consider putting back into the proposed budget the wage increases. The Trustees believe the Town budget should be recommending a bottom line for the Library budget and the Trustees will make the final decision on where the funds are allocated, as long as the bottom line is not exceeded.
  - Department Heads will be meeting with the Budget Committee at next week's meeting to further discuss these budget issues.
4. Mr. Roby commented on the value of the Zoning Board recording secretary. There were no other public comments or questions at this time.

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5. The Budget Committee will continue to review and discuss the proposed budget at their upcoming November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting. This meeting is devoted to hearing directly from any department heads that wish to discuss their department's proposed budget with the Budget Committee.
6. At 8:40PM Mr. McClave moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Lange. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Cutting