

# ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES, JANUARY 8, 2014

Members Present: Scarano, Ruell, Badger, Cilley, Toth, Newton, Coleman, Heidenreich, Stewart, also alternates DeWolfe and Liebert (Heidenreich and Liebert left during the meeting. Newton and DeWolfe left and returned.)

Others Present: P. Branscombe, A. Cilley, E. Badger, S. Felton

The meeting began at 5:30 p.m. in the Ashland School conference room. After some discussion on procedure, the Committee voted on the Town budget.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Cilley, it was voted to recommend \$10,924 for Executive. On a motion by Heidenreich, seconded by Newton, \$12,423 was voted for Executive default budget, including increases in Salaries, FICA and Medicare for the increased number of selectmen, and a decrease for a contract in Website.

A motion by Coleman, seconded by Toth, to decrease Clerk Salary in Election & Registration to \$20,584 failed on a vote of 3 to 4. On a motion by Newton, seconded by Stewart, it was voted 5 to 2 to recommend \$36,369 for Election & Registration, correcting Medicare to \$307 and FICA to \$1315. On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Newton, it was voted to recommend \$5000 for Ballot Coding. On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Cilley, \$35,636 was voted for Election & Registration default budget, with increases in Retirement and in Election Salary and Election Advertising for more elections. On a motion by Newton, seconded by Stewart, \$5000 was voted for Ballot Coding default budget, with an increase for more elections.

Coleman objected to raises for non-union employees.

A motion by Scarano, seconded by Coleman, to reduce Financial Computer Expenses to \$12,370 failed on a vote of 2 to 6. On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Cilley, it was voted 6 to 1 to recommend \$315,008 for Financial. On a motion by Newton, seconded by Cilley, \$287,628 was voted for Financial default budget, including increases in Town Administrator Salary, FICA, Medicare and Retirement for a contract, contractual increase in health insurance, contractual decrease in Audit, contractual increase in Computer Expense, mandatory increases in Tax Collector FICA and Medicare for the Deputy, and increase in Tax Collector

## Retirement.

Coleman expressed her concerns about cash flow, late payments to the school, and salary increases. There was a discussion of cash flow analysis, the spending freeze, and tax collection.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Stewart, it was voted to recommend \$19,600 for Revaluation of Property. On a motion by Newton, seconded by Stewart, it was voted to recommend \$15,000 for Legal. On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Cilley, it was voted to recommend \$3000 for Unemployment. On a motion by Newton, seconded by Stewart, \$19,600 was voted for Revaluation of Property default budget, with a decrease in the Assessing contract. On a motion by Stewart, seconded by Cilley, \$15,000 was voted for Legal default budget. On a motion by Cilley, seconded by Badger, \$10,000 was voted for Unemployment default budget.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Cilley, it was voted to recommend \$3379 for Planning & Zoning. On a motion by Cilley, seconded by Stewart, \$3304 was voted for the Planning & Zoning default budget.

On a motion by Badger, seconded by Toth, it was voted 4 to 2 to recommend \$75,681 for General Government Buildings, with \$52,364 for General Repair and \$1 for Matching Grants. On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Toth, \$35,550 was voted for General Government Buildings default budget.

On a motion by Badger, seconded by Stewart, it was voted to recommend \$115,324 for Insurance, On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Cilley, it was voted to recommend \$1771 for Regional Associations. On a motion by Cilley, seconded by Badger, it was voted to recommend \$1 for Other General Government. On a motion by Badger, seconded by Ruell, \$115,324 was voted for Insurance default budget, with contractual increases in Health, in Property, Auto & Liability and in Disability, and a contractual decrease in Workers Compensation. On a motion by Badger, seconded by Stewart, \$1771 was voted for Regional Associations default budget. On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Coleman, \$1 was voted for Other General Government default budget.

The Committee reviewed recommendations and default budget for non-salaried lines for the Police Department, but took no vote. (The committee had previously voted to change Matching Grants to \$2500.) For the default budget, contractual decreases were noted for Health Insurance, Cable and Telephone and contractual

increases for Life Insurance, Copier lease and Police Dispatch.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Badger, it was voted to recommend \$10,455 for Detail. On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Badger, \$3137 was voted for Detail default budget.

On a motion by Toth, seconded by Cilley, it was voted to recommend \$47,500 for Ambulance. On a motion by Badger, seconded by Toth, \$47,500 was voted for Ambulance default budget.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Badger, it was voted to recommend \$19,502 for Mutual Aid. On a motion by Badger, seconded by Ruell, \$19,502 was voted for Mutual Aid default budget, a contractual increase.

The committee reviewed recommendations and default budget for Fire Department non-salaried lines, but took no vote. For the default budget, a contractual increase was noted for Telephone, and contractual decreases for Defibrillator Lease Purchase and Building and Grounds (the roof replacement).

On a motion by Badger, seconded by Stewart, it was voted 4 to 2 to recommend \$12,342 for Building Inspector. On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Stewart, \$9807 was voted for Building Inspector default budget.

On a motion by Badger, seconded by Toth, it was voted to recommend \$2056 for Emergency Management. On a motion by Coleman, seconded by Stewart, \$1000 was voted for Emergency Management default budget.

The committee reviewed recommendations and default budget for Public Works, but took no vote. For the default budget, a contractual decrease was noted for Health Insurance and a contractual increase for Life Insurance.

On a motion by Badger, seconded by Toth, it was voted to recommend \$214,401 for Highways & Streets. On a motion by Badger, seconded by Stewart, \$213,031 was voted for Highways & Streets default budget, including contractual increases for Garage Cable and Equipment Lease. On a motion by Badger, seconded by Cilley, it was voted to amend the recommended budget for Highways & Streets to \$214,402, adding \$1 for Equipment.

The committee reviewed recommendations and default budget for non-salaried

lines in Town Mechanic, but took no vote. For the default budget, contractual increases were noted in Health Insurance and Life Insurance.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Toth, it was voted to recommend \$41,531 for Street Lighting. On a motion by Cilley, seconded by Stewart, \$42,000 was voted for Street Lighting default budget.

The committee reviewed recommendations and default budget for Transfer/ Recycling, skipping salary related lines and Solid Waste District Dues. A motion by Stewart, seconded by Ruell, for \$2500 for Equipment Maintenance failed on a 2 to 4 vote, leaving the line at the previously voted \$1200. No other vote was taken on Transfer/ Recycling. For the default budget, a contractual increase was noted for Testing.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Cilley, it was voted to recommend \$2354 for Health. On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Cilley, \$2354 was voted for Health default budget. (Toth abstained from these votes.)

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Toth, it was voted to recommend \$2700 for Animal Control. On a motion by Badger, seconded by Cilley, \$2700 was voted for Animal Control default budget, including a contractual decrease for N.H. Humane Society.

On a motion by Toth, seconded by Stewart, it was voted to recommend \$60,902 for Welfare. On a motion by Toth, seconded by Stewart, \$75,000 was voted for Welfare default budget.

On a motion by Toth, seconded by Cilley, it was voted to recommend \$47,390 for Parks & Recreation (general). This included prior votes of \$2500 for Electricity, \$650 for Cable and \$500 for Telephone. On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Toth, \$41,916 was voted for Parks & Recreation (general) default budget.

On a motion by Stewart, seconded by Ruell, it was voted to recommend \$10,581 for Parks & Recreation-Campground. On a motion by Stewart, seconded by Ruell, \$9631 was voted for Parks & Recreation-Campground default budget.

On a motion by Newton, seconded by Toth, it was voted 5 to 2 to recommend \$29,381 for Parks & Recreation-Summer/Vacation, including prior votes of \$8000 for Beach Salaries, \$11,000 for Vacation Camp Salary, \$2000 for Vacation Camp

Special Programs, \$1800 for Vacation Bussing, and amended costs of \$1178 for FICA and \$276 for Medicare. On a motion by Cilley, seconded by Newton, \$37,216 was voted for Parks & Recreation-Summer/Vacation default budget, including \$50 for Beach Sewer.

On a motion by Cilley, seconded by Ruell, it was voted to recommend \$7251 for Parks & Recreation-After School. On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Stewart, \$6225 was voted for Parks & Recreation- After School default budget.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Stewart, it was voted to recommend \$1893 for Parks & Recreation-Community. On a motion by Newton, seconded by Toth, \$893 was voted for Parks & Recreation-Community default budget.

On a motion by Newton, seconded by Badger, it was voted to recommend \$60,355 for Library. On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Badger, \$59,605 was voted for Library default budget, including \$150 in increased mandate and contracts and \$100 in decreased contracts in General Expenses.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Newton, it was voted to recommend \$23,189 for Patriotic Purposes. On a motion by Badger, seconded by Cilley, \$23,689 was voted for Patriotic Purposes default budget, including a contractual increase in 4<sup>th</sup> of July Expenses.

On a motion by Newton, seconded by Toth, it was voted to recommend \$646 for Town Trustees. On a motion by Stewart, seconded by Badger, \$646 was voted for Town Trustees default budget.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Stewart, it was voted to recommend \$1250 for Conservation Commission. On a motion by Newton, seconded by Badger, \$1000 was voted for Conservation Commission default budget.

On a motion by Coleman, seconded by Toth, it was voted 4 to 3 to recommend \$1 for Interest-TAN Notes. On a motion by Newton, seconded by Cilley, it was voted to recommend \$178,545 for Debt Service Principal and \$71,206 for Debt Service Interest. On a motion by Newton, seconded by Cilley, \$178,545 was voted for Debt Service Principal default budget and \$71,206 for Debt Service Interest default budget, included increases and decreases in interest payments. On a motion by Cilley, seconded by Stewart, \$4500 was voted for Interest-TAN Notes default budget.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Stewart, it was voted 6 to 2 to recommend the warrant article for \$25,000 for the police department vehicle capital reserve fund.

On a motion by Stewart, seconded by Ruell, it was voted 8 to 0 to recommend the warrant article for \$125,000 for the Road Improvements Capital Reserve Fund.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Stewart, it was voted 8 to 0 to recommend the warrant article for \$50,000 for the Fire Department vehicle capital reserve fund.

On a motion by Stewart, seconded by Ruell, it was voted 7 to 1 to recommend the warrant article for \$47,000 for the lease purchase of a Transfer Station mini-loader.

On a motion by Stewart, seconded by Ruell, it was voted 5 to 3 to recommend the warrant article for \$34,000 for the purchase of a Public Works pickup truck.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Stewart, it was voted 5 to 3 to recommend the warrant article for establishment of a motor vehicle registration fee for a municipal transportation capital reserve fund.

The committee discussed a petitioned warrant article for a matching grants expendable trust fund.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Toth, it was voted 8 to 0 to recommend the warrant article for \$1000 for CADY.

On a motion by Cilley, seconded by Stewart, it was voted 8 to 0 to recommend the warrant article for \$9342 for Pemi Baker Community Health.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Newton, it was voted 7 to 1 to recommend the warrant article for \$2700 for Genesis.

On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Toth, it was voted 7 to 1 to recommend the warrant article for \$3107 for Tri County Community Action Program.

The committee discussed the next meeting on January 9.

On a motion by Newton, seconded by Stewart, it was voted to adjourn at 9:48 p.m.  
Minutes by David Ruell