

Budget Committee Minutes

12/29/12

Present: Steven Felton, Mark Scarano, David Ruell, David Toth(excused early), Sandra Coleman, Miriam Brown, Philip Preston, Mardean Badger(non-voting)

Late w/notice: Ingrid Heidenreich(3:30), Christine Austin(5:30)

Others present: Paul Branscombe, Patricia Tucker, Anthony Randall, Eli Badger

Minutes of 12/18/12

Toth-p. 1-ninth item-fix grammar-...this is why the figures *were* what they were...

Ruell-Add replacement cost of water meters.

Ruell moved, Scarano seconded_to accept the minutes with corrections.

Vote was 5 in favor, 1 abstention.

Minutes 12/20/12

Members Present-Scarano was not

Ruell-Item 10-*Bare* (not bear)

p.3-Operation of Plant-Data Communications should be in Building and Equipment.

p.4-Article 7-*made* (not mad)

Ruell moved, Felton seconded to accept the minutes with corrections.

Vote was unanimously in favor.

CIP/reserves. Felton reported the CIP Committee met on 12/19 and looked at action plans. First round of departments were there and got a good start. They looked at depreciation tables and the Master Plan. They want to look at the School District's capital needs. They will come up with a recommendation for the Town Administrator. They are asking for \$25,000 for the FD and \$25,000 for the PD for capital reserves. Also, they are asking for \$40,000 for the energy audit needs-but not in a capital reserve fund. Rather, this would be in the general fund with the amount specifically earmarked for energy audit needs. Tucker noted that monies in the general fund can not be guaranteed to be earmarked this way.

Felton handed out a spreadsheet showing all the Town department totals from September to December 2012. The sheet also contained the proposed Warrant Articles totaling \$229,920.

Discussion ensued as to the need for a Warrant Article, by the PD, due to the addition of officers to the Town union. Legal counsel says no.

Scarano asked for clarification as to the letters following the dates at the top of the spreadsheet.
A=actual, B=budget.

Scarano asked if there was support for a Petitioned Warrant Article for a financial analysis of the Town. It would have to be written very soon as the Warrants are due January 8th. The committee was in favor of the idea.

Budget. Felton asked for input of specific areas of reductions in the budget. Brown suggested that Parks and Recreation be greatly reduced by eliminating the Director, the Summer Program(SP) and the After School Program(ASP).

Branscombe stated that parents have approached him about the programs and that they do not want to see them eliminated. He did agree the SP is not competitive, costs are up and enrollment is down, and that other towns have lower costs. He suggested that Jim Gleich(P&R Director) call parents and get them involved in re-vamping the program. He also stated that by 5:00pm only two children remain at the ASP-however, the program does make a modest income.

Toth stated the SP has been in trouble for years and that no solutions have been offered or implemented.

Scarano likes the idea of consolidating programs with another town-but that it would take years.

Ruell noted that efforts have been made to cut costs.

Branscombe wants the ASP to be moved to the elementary school.

Brown stated the SP has had years to fix its' problems and, while it would be nice for the parents to be involved in saving the program, what if that doesn't happen? Eliminate the program for a year and see if interested people come forward with real solutions that can be put in place.

The ASP made \$1,300 in 2011.

The SP lost \$5,061 in 2010, \$9,001 in 2011 and \$6,878 in 2012.

There would be a budget savings of \$40,157 if only the campground/beach remained in the P&R portion of the budget(adjusted number after revenues were deducted).

Scarano moved -Brown seconded to eliminate the P&R Director position and eliminate the Summer Program (but keep the After School Program).

(Toth excused during discussion)

Vote was 4 in favor, 2 opposed.

Break-3:30-3:45

Police. Chief Randall was asked to provide wages for the department. The Lt. receives \$23.00/hr, the Sgt.-\$21.00/hr and the two patrolmen-\$16.00/hr. The Chief's salary is \$56,000 annually. There is also a part-time officer for Wednesday nights and a new hire (projected \$16.00/hr).

(Heidenreich arrives)

Felton inquired as to the flexibility of hours. Chief replied not much, the schedule is tight.

The Chief stated that comparisons to Holderness PD are inaccurate because they do not carry retirement, FICA or Medicare in their budget. He also stated that overtime will be overspent.

Scarano wants to see the budget level funded. Discussion ensued as to the computer maintenance costs. The Chief will look into reducing the cost.

It was decided to reduce the budget by the following: PT officer wages-\$10,000; Special operations unit-\$2,600; uniforms-\$1,000;vehicle maintenance-\$1,000;gasoline-\$1,000;matching grants-\$500; training-\$1,000.

This reduced to budget total by \$17,864 for a bottom line of \$556,645.

Brown moved, Scarano seconded to accept the bottom line of \$556,645.

The vote was 4 in favor, 3 opposed.

Break 5:00-5:05

Welfare.It was decided to reduce \$5,000 from the general assistance line.

Scarano moved, Coleman seconded to reduce the general assistance line by \$5,000 for a bottom line of \$75,000.

The vote was 6 in favor, 1 opposed.

Meeting date. Because of the stormy weather, and the need to adjourn soon, it was decided to schedule a meeting for January 5, 2013, starting at 11:00am, at the Ashland Historic School.

Executive. *PbCam*...Toth moved, Coleman seconded to reduce the PbCam line by \$500.

The vote was 6 in favor, 1 opposed.

(Austin arrives)

BOS salaries...there was discussion on the previous vote to eliminate the BOS salaries.

Felton moved, Brown seconded to return \$3,000 to the salary line.

The vote was 4 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions.

BOS expenses...Heidenreich moved, Coleman seconded to reduce the line from \$3,500 to \$2,000.

The vote was 6 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

Restoration of books...Scarano moved, Coleman seconded to reduce the line from \$2,000 to \$1,000.

The vote was 7 in favor, 1 opposed.

Grant writing workshop...Coleman moved, Heidenreich seconded to reduce the line from \$1,000 to \$500.

The vote was unanimously in favor.

Ruell moved, Heidenreich seconded for a bottom line of \$11,986.

The vote was unanimously in favor.

Heidenreich moved, Coleman seconded for a default budget of \$10,623.

The vote was unanimously in favor.

Elections and Register. The ER Clerk Expense line should be \$3,800 (not \$3,000)

Scarano moved, Felton seconded a bottom line of \$30,931.

The vote was 7 in favor, 1 opposed

Heidenreich moved, Austin seconded a default budget of \$30,031.

The vote was 7 in favor, 1 opposed

Financial. *Budget Committee Expenses*

Heidenreich moved, Scarano seconded a bottom line of \$400.

The vote was unanimously in favor.

At 6:26 pm, there being no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Miriam Brown

Secretary Pro-tem