

**Town of Greenland
Budget Committee
January 27, 2010**

Present: Mary McDonough (chairperson), John Weeks, Charlie Cummings (selectman's representative-alternate), Stephen Gerrato, Mike Marsh, Michael (Kip) Lebar, Pat Walsh, Sandra Trull-Smith and Jim Haslam (school board representative)

Absent: Bruce Dearborn, selectman's representative, Bob Krasko, Ron Gross

Also present: Karen Anderson, Town Administrator. In audience, Paul Sanderson and Mo Sodini selectmen, Liz Cummings, Library employee and library trustees.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30. The committee asked Mr. Haslam if he could obtain the dollar amount the school received in Equity Education funds last year. The committee then continued the line by line review of the town budget. A motion was made by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Haslam to reduce line 01-4311-207 Vehicle Maintenance and repair from \$7,500 to \$5,000. The motion passed with a vote of 5-2 with Mr. Gerratto abstaining.

A motion was made by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Walsh to reduce line 01-4311-224 Equipment from \$15,250 to \$250. The added \$15,000 would have been for the purchase of a Skag Turf Tiger. The discussion revolved around the fact this may not be a good year to purchase this due to the economic situation. The motion passed with a vote of 4-3 with one abstaining.

Ms. Grimes, Weeks Public Library, presented a ratified proposal since they did receive unexpected funds since we first reviewed their budget. After the committee took some time to review the new budget breakdown, Mr. Marsh made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Trull-Smith to reduce line 01-4550-001 Operating expense Library from \$218,217 to \$212,600. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

After completing the review, Ms. Anderson calculated the recommended total budget by the budget committee now stands at 2,687,336 which is a .52% reduction from the 2009 operating budget.

The meeting minutes from 1-20-10 were then reviewed. Mr. Lebar making motion to pass the minutes with Mr. Gerratto seconding the motion; the motion passed with a vote of 6-0 with Mr. Haslam abstaining since he was not at the meeting.

The focus next went to the school budget. The chairperson did suggest that the committee needs to look at the school budget in the same light as the town budget was approached in the hope of keeping the tax rate from spiking next year. Questions arose regarding the expected revenue the school may receive this coming year as well as if the school would qualify for further reimbursements from Medicaid. Mr. Haslam will contact Mr. Katkin to help clarify these questions for the committee. The committee did discuss how we could approach the proposed school budget to reduce spending.

Mr. Haslam also requested a few minutes to gather the opinion of the committee regarding setting up expendable trust funds to help offset unexpected costs from high school and special education costs. Mr. Cummings proposed the Board also consider establishing an expendable trust fund for costs

associated with the currently unfunded future employee retirement obligations.

A line by line review began. Mr. Gerratto made a motion to reduce line 10-1100-110-20-10 Salaries by \$90,000. With no second, the motion died. We did agree to revisit this line at a later date.

Due to the hour, the chairperson challenged the committee to review the budget prior to our next meeting and develop a list of recommended changes to discuss. If we do not complete the review at the next meeting, another meeting will be set to complete the review.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40. The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2010 at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary McDonough,
Chairperson