

**Town of Greenland  
Budget Committee  
January 9, 2010**

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

**Absent:** Bruce Dearborn, selectman's representative

**Also present:** Karen Anderson, Town Administrator; Mo Sodini (selectman), Chip Hussey (conservation committee), Chief Maloney (Police), Sargent Dawn Sawyer, Bob Cushman (Building inspector), Marge Morgan (town clerk/ tax collector), Denise Grimes (librarian), Richard Rugg (cemetery trustee), as well as several trustees of the library and Leonard Fitzgerald (cemetery trustee)

The first presentation was from Chip Hussey representing the conservation committee. Mr. Hussey presented the two warrant articles which the committee is expecting to propose at this year. The first one is a 2 million dollar bond so that the selectman would have the opportunity to purchase land for easement or conservation if an opportunity were to arise. The bond would be good for 5 years and would require 2 public hearings before the selectman could spend the money. It would require a majority vote of the selectman to proceed with purchase of a land.

The second warrant article be to expend up to \$15,000 for matching grants. This would cover unkind services such as collecting of water samples or work to determine if a culvert needs a fish passage. The conservation committee is proposing this article to the selectman at their next meeting.

Police Chief Maloney and Sargent Dawn Sawyer presented the proposed police budget on a line by line basis. Officers were given a 1.5% raise and the step plan was frozen. There is six months left on the locked in price from the state for gas; it is currently locked in at \$1.95. The department uses approximately 560 gallons a month. The cost of tires has increased. A possible retirement would not effect the budget. There will be no warrant articles this year since the detail work has covered the cost of a new cruiser as was the plan which was established last year. Chief Maloney and Sargent Sawyer answered all questions from the budget committee.

Mr. Cushman presented the building department budget next. He did clarify his job description for the committee and provided an additional handout of how he felt he saved the town monies this year.

Ms. Morgan presented the tax collector/ town clerk's proposed budget. She did report if the deputy is not busy, she does send her home early to save money for the town. She would like to continue the effort toward record preservation which was started a few years ago. She is trying to collect e-mails from citizens to send out e-mail blasts rather than spending monies on mailings.

The recreation committee did not feel as if they needed to present this year, thus Mr. Pafford did not attend. The next presentation was by Denise Grimes addressing the library's budget. She handed out several pamphlets to describe what services the library does offer. The library employees are now covered under the town's health insurance policy in an effort to save money. The library sent out one less newsletter which they feel affected their attendance at programing. They are also hoping to purchase a new web-hosted catalog system. The town maintenance person, Paul Hayden, will be taking care of the lawn and snow removal services. It previously cost \$600 for mowing and \$23,000. The employees were given a 1.5% wage increase to stay in line with the town's recommendation.

Unplanned maintenance was taken out of the budget with the anticipation if any catastrophe arose, the trustees would approach the selectman for assistance. Since several maintenance projects have already been completed in the past several years, there are no anticipated expenses. The warrant article which will be presented is for \$15,000 to add to the capital reserve fund; currently there is \$250,000 in this fund.

Mr. Rugg presented the proposed budget for the cemetery. There will be a warrant article to give the bookkeeper a salary. He is also asking for a computer to log the persons buried in the town cemetery. The cemetery would like to care for their own lawn and not use Mr. Hayes. Mr. Rugg stated RSA 289-7 which he believes gives the trustees the right to hire their own landscapers. The cemetery is usually mowed 15 times a season. There will also be a warrant article asking for \$15,000 to purchase land for cemetery use.

Ms. Anderson presented all remaining sections of the Town Budget. She explained that the recommended increase in the secretary's hours would be to complete paperwork for fire inspections. This would also make this employee eligible for health insurance. This would increase the budget by approximately \$17,000 to add 5 hours to this position. Other highlights include the additional monies needed for health insurance include both the eligible library employees and the secretary's full time qualification for benefits. The town did change health insurance plans with the expectation it would save money. Ms. Anderson also provided a worksheet which projects the savings we had using a full time maintenance position vs. using contractors to complete the work. The department of labor advised the town we need a plan to provide better security for the employees at town hall. Ms. Anderson is working on this plan and provided for it in the budget.

Health and Human services will be reviewed at a later meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 11, 2010 at 6:30; this will be a combined meeting with the school board to continue review of the budget.

A motion by Mr. Haslam which was seconded by Mr. Lebar to approve the meeting minutes from 1-6-2010; all were in favor. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gross and seconded by Mr. Krasko; all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary McDonough,  
Chairperson