

Town of Greenland
Budget Committee Meeting
February 10, 2009

Present: Mary McDonough, Chairperson, R.B. Lawrence, John Weeks, Ron Gross, Patrick Walsh, Sandra Trull Smith, Mike Marsh, Jim Haslam, school board representative, Paul Sanderson, Selectman's representative

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting minutes of 2/4/19 and the meeting minutes of the public hearing were passed.

Since no comments were made on the line by line budget review at the public hearing, the committee did not go back to review these recommendations. The topic of raises was brought up at the public hearing by the chairperson so that we could re-visit this subject. The chairperson asked the committee to presents their current thoughts on the subject of raises for all town employees given information which we had reviewed over the past few weeks. While we were to discuss the topic, the chairperson asked that both the town and school wage increases be discussed at the same time.

The discussion was intense with the following highlights:

- raises may be too high given the economy and the fact that townspeople who pay the taxes are facing personal financial hardship
- economy is tough now and we should be fiscally conservative
- valued town employees are worth paying so we don't lose them or cut services to the townspeople
- should people automatically deserve a raise given the economy
- a lower raise may be more in line

After a lengthy discussion, Ms. Trull-Smith made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Marsh to reduce town employees salary increase from 3.9% to 3.0%. The motion failed by a vote of 2-4. No other motion was made regarding salaries.

The Warrant Articles were addressed next with the following results:

Article 17: operating budget: Budget committee voted unanimously in favor of the budget committees recommend budget.

Article 18: \$50,000 to add to the capital reserve fund for the Weeks Public Library
Thought was principal was good, but the wrong year. Would like to reconsider this in next year's warrant articles. NOT RECOMMENDED by a vote of 4-5.

Article 19: \$50,000 To be added to the capital reserve fund to complete work on Portsmouth Avenue.
RECOMMENDED by vote of 5-2.

Article 20: \$50,000 to establish a capital reserve fund for the purpose of construction and maintenance of town property.
NOT RECOMMENDED by a vote of 2-6

Article 21: \$31,100 for the purpose of purchasing a police cruiser
RECOMMENDED by a vote of 5-3

Article 22: \$30,000 to start an Expendable Trust fund for the purpose of unanticipated storm expenses.

RECOMMENDED by a vote of 7-0 with one person abstaining

Article 23: \$12,000 for the purpose of purchasing a new stretcher for the Fire Department
RECOMMENDED by a vote of 8-0

Article 24: \$7,700 for the library trust expendable trust fund for the purpose of emergencies
RECOMMENDED by a vote of 8-0

Article 25: \$7,500 for retirement liabilities trust fund
RECOMMENDED by a vote of 7-1

Article 26: \$6,000 to provide town employees with life insurance and long term disability
RECOMMENDED by a vote of 8-0

Article 27: \$3,000 for COAST bus
RECOMMENDED by a vote of 8-0

Article 28: \$2,500 for Mosquito Control Expendable Trust fund for emergencies
RECOMMENDED by a vote of 7-1

The proposed school budget was reviewed next. The topic of the \$1,800 for field hockey cages was revisited with no one choosing to make a motion to restore this to the budget.

The Warrant Articles were addressed next with the following results:

Article 1: Operating Budget: Budget committee voted unanimously in favor of the budget committees recommend budget.

Article 2: \$134,274 to cover the cost of the collective bargaining agreement with the Coastal Teacher's Association.
RECOMMENDED by a vote of 4-3 with one person abstaining

Article 4: \$20,400 for transfer of monies from SAU rental property to pay for repairs, etc.
RECOMMENDED by a vote of 8-0.

Article 5: \$50,000 for deficit appropriation for additional cost of high school tuition.
RECOMMENDED by a vote of 8-0

Article 6: \$60,000 for a generator at the school
RECOMMENDED by a vote of 8-0

Mr. Laurence was thanked for his time and valuable input during his term on the budget committee. We may need to meet to appoint another member depending upon the results of the upcoming election since there is only one person on the ballot for two spots. A meeting will be called as necessary.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McDonough,
Chair Budget Committee