



BUDGET COMMITTEE
Town of Greenland • Greenland, NH 03840
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MINUTES OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING

Wednesday, January 29, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Chair Mary McDonough, Toby Fedder, Steve Gerrato, Chris Halligan, Bob Krasko, Steve McKenzie, Don Miller, John Penacho - Selectmen's Rep, Mark Raque, Jim Trowell

Members Absent: Pat Walsh – School Board Rep

Also Present: Karen Anderson – Town Administrator; Kevin Forrest, Vaughan Morgan, Mo Sodini – Selectmen

Chair McDonough opened the Budget Committee meeting at 6:35 p.m. and a roll call was taken. The Chair stated that a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded.

1. Approval of Minutes: January 06, 08, 16 and 22, 2014

MOTION: Chair McDonough moved to approve the minutes from January 06, 08, 16 and 22, 2014. Second – Mr. Fedder; nine (9) in favor, one (1) abstain (Mr. Gerrato). **MOTION CARRIED**

2. SB2 Deliberative Session

Chair McDonough has contacted Joey Cresta, The Portsmouth Herald, regarding an article for the SB2 Deliberative Session. She requested the article appear in the paper prior to the meeting on Monday, February 03, 2014.

TOWN BUDGET REVIEW

The Budget Committee reviewed the proposed Town budget and warrant articles. The Board received a revised budget at the last meeting. The overall increase is 2.87% due to grants, which are revenue neutral.

The proposed change in the Deputy Town Clerk's position from part-time to full-time was discussed. Members were in agreement with the proposal. Preservation of Vital Records was also discussed. Mr. Trowell asked the Town Administrator about the warrant article for new computers. The Town Administrator explained what was in the budget would be separate from the warrant article.

The Police Department overtime budget was discussed at length. It was suggested by Mr. Gerrato that \$10,191.16 could be cut from the overtime line. Chief Laurent explained the overtime policy and coverage to the Board as well as detail work. Mr. Penacho told the Board that the Selectmen were in support of the Police Department budget, and they would not compromise safety. Mr. Gerrato felt the budget should be reduced to \$673,228.

MOTION: Mr. Miller moved to approve the 2014 Police Department budget as presented at \$698,866. Second – Mr. Penacho; nine (9) in favor, one (1) opposed. MOTION CARRIED

Chief Cresta explained gear replacement for the Fire Department, adding that Scott Packs would need to be replaced within the next few years. Asked by Mr. Krasko, Chief Cresta explained the stipend volunteer members received.

The amount spent on snow removal in 2013 was \$368,000 which was over by \$48,000. The number of anticipated storms during 2014 was submitted at 15.

The Town Administrator explained that the Town is required by RSA 32 to pay disposal and collection fees for all residents. If using private haulers, residents are only paying for transportation. The Town receives, and pays, the bill from the hauler. There has been a substantial increase in hauling fees this year; the Board was concerned about accountability. The Town Administrator responded that the abutting towns are done on different days, and she receives a weight slip from turnkey. She added that Waste Management charges an additional fee if the resident wants to recycle. Recycling tonnage has increased 40 ton over the previous year; waste tonnage has increased 9 tons. Greenland is a recycling mandatory town. The cost for private tipping fees to the Town is \$7,200 which is approximately 10% of the total cost. Chair McDonough suggested that the Selectmen may want to address this at Town Meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Penacho moved to accept the 2014 Town budget as submitted by the Board of Selectmen in the amount of \$3,202,705. Second – Mr. Trowell.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Fedder asked the Town Administrator for the amount the budget is under-run. She responded that it will be approximately \$35,000. The reserve fund balance generally increases when revenues exceed what is anticipated; the Town Administrator briefly explained those revenues. Mr. Penacho and the Town Administrator explained the use of the reserve fund balance to offset taxes.

MOTION: Mr. Penacho moved to accept the 2014 Town budget as submitted by the Board of Selectmen in the amount of \$3,202,705. Second – Mr. Trowell; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Penacho presented the proposed warrant articles to the Board for review purposes. Chief Cresta explained Article 13 (acquisition of a fire truck/pumper with a hose reel), stating the 1978 truck needs to be replaced; half the Town doesn't have a hydrant system. Mr. Miller added that the life expectancy of a fire truck in the city is 15 years; in rural areas 25 years.

Chief Cresta also explained Article 15 (Fire Department day staffing) to the Board. At this time there are not many department members available during the day to respond to calls; this creates a public safety issue. Hiring would be from within the department and open to those members available to man a shift on a part-time basis. Mr. Penacho added that this article has not been discussed by the Selectmen.

Mr. Penacho noted that the Selectmen have not discussed Article 16 (tennis and basketball courts in Falls Way). The Town Administrator explained that there is a lot in Falls Way that was donated to the Town for recreation purposes; \$25,000 was received by the developer to develop the lot.

Chief Laurent reviewed Article 18 (exterior repairs to the Police Station), explaining that the trim is rotting; three (3) bids were received. Referring to Article 19 (finishing the second floor of the Police Station), she told the Board that floor was never finished: no heat, air conditioning, insulation, electricity, etc. The original plans for upstairs were shown to the Board. Mr. Fedder mentioned that it

would have to be ADA compliant. Chief Laurent responded there are several police departments with similar conditions that are not ADA compliant; she is continuing to research the requirements.

Article 21 (compactor and 24 yard container) was discussed by Mr. Penacho and the Town Administrator. The Town should see a return in two years based on current hauling fees.

Article 22 (paint striping machine) was explained by the Town Administrator. The Town currently contracts out for striping; the fog (yellow) stripe would need to be contracted. Stop bars, parking lot and fields can be done in-house.

Mr. Fedder requested a balance sheet for all capital reserve funds. The Town Administrator will provide that. The Town Administrator reminded the Board that the warrant articles and their order are subject change. The Selectmen will be meeting on Monday, February 03, to discuss warrant articles.

Chair McDonough reminded the Board that Monday, February 03, will be the Deliberative Session at the school at 6:30 p.m. Dean Bouffard will be the moderator; Budget Committee members will be part of the audience. She continued that this will be similar to the Town Meeting, and items can be amended from the floor. Results from the Deliberative Session will appear on the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Krasko moved to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. Second – Mr. Fedder; all in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 11, 2014 – 6:30 p.m., Town Budget Public Hearing, Greenland School

Reminder: No meeting on Wednesday, February 05, 2014

Respectfully Submitted – Charlotte Hussey, Secretary to the Boards

Approved: 