



BUDGET COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

DANA GRAY CHAIRMAN
JONATHAN WAUGH, VICE-CHAIRMAN
MEG GARDNER, SECRETARY
WILLIAM BURNS
LEN VAN GAASBEEK, JR.
LENNY VAN GAASBEEK III
BRETT DAVIS, SR.

Minutes of Budget Committee Meeting 9 March 2015

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:43 PM at the Community Building.

Roll Call: Dana Gray, William Burns, Len VanGaasbeek Jr., Lenny VanGaasbeek III, Jon Waugh, Brett Davis Sr., Meg Gardner

Also present: Selectmen Brian Atkinson and River Payne.

Review of Minutes: The minutes of 2-23-15 were approved as presented 6-0-1.

Correspondence: None

Old Business: Mr. Gray reviewed portions of the Budget Committee Ordinance concerning the responsibilities and duties of the committee. He noted that the Budget Committee does not initiate a budget item to be reviewed, but the committee can request further information if any item is unclear or incomplete. He stated that some towns have two budgets that are submitted to the Budget Committee: one from the selectmen and one from the department head.

Ms. Gardner expressed concern that the Budget Committee is not seeing what the department head originally submitted, such as with the Hollis Center Library.

The budget request from the Hollis Center Library (0810) was put back on the table for discussion. Maureen Cole, Library Director, was present to answer questions from the committee. As requested at the last meeting, Ms. Cole brought copies of the original budget request submitted to the selectmen, as well as bids for replacing the windows. The original request was \$35,812.

Ms. Payne noted that all departments this year were asked to try to hold the line rather than requesting increases, in order to keep the tax rate down. She stated that the meeting with the library directors was a friendly one, and the second budget submission was \$30,000.

Mr. Davis moved to review the original budget request as well as the new one. The motion was seconded and discussed. The motion carried 4-2-1. The original budget request for 0810 was distributed and reviewed.

Mr. Atkinson noted that the Hollis Center Library is non-municipal. A non-municipal agency cannot submit a capital request to the town. The selectmen can make such a request.

Motion to approve the request of \$30,000 for 0810, the Hollis Center Library. The motion was seconded and discussed. The motion carried 4-3-0.

New Business: Two capital requests.

Fire Chief Jason Johnson presented his request for a new fire truck to replace a 1989 2000-gallon tank truck that has been repaired repeatedly and is still leaking. There are only about 5 people who are qualified to drive this truck, which can make it difficult to find someone to get it to a fire scene. The new truck is estimated to cost \$376,000, would have a larger water capacity (2500) gallons, would have an automatic transmission to make it easier to drive, and would have a life expectancy of 25-30 years. There was lengthy discussion of whether this money may come from the TIF or not.

Motion to give preliminary approval for a maximum of \$380,000 for the purchase of a new fire truck, without a determination of whether the money will come from the TIF or not. The motion was seconded and discussed, and carried 6-1-0.

The second capital request was the one for \$15,000 to pay the Hollis share of lighting for the new Bar Mills bridge. This received preliminary approval at the March 2 meeting, by a vote of 6-0-1.

TIF: Mr. Atkinson reported that the selectmen have submitted TIF questions to the town's TIF consultant, regarding exactly where and how the TIF money may be spent, but a reply has not yet been received.

In response to a question from Mr. Gray, Mr. Atkinson noted that the questions were originally submitted to the Director of Tax Incentive Programs for the State of Maine. That office declined to answer the town's questions, replying that the town must hire a TIF consultant. The town was provided with a list of three names of qualified TIF consultants recommended by the Director of Tax Incentive Programs, from which one was chosen. This consultant has already attended one televised public meeting with the selectmen, at considerable cost to the town.

Budget Reconciliation: Motion to give final approval to all 2015-16 items that have been given preliminary approval by the Budget Committee. Motion was seconded and discussed. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Public Comment: Mr. Gray recused himself from his position as chairman, and addressed the Budget Committee from the podium as a private citizen, with four areas of primary concern:

1. Proposed warrant article regarding competitive bidding
2. Spending TIF money to hire a consultant from SMPDC for planning purposes
3. Establishing a written HR policy on raises, vacation, sick, etc.
4. Support for Town Administrator form of government for Hollis.

Plan for Next Meeting: There was no planning for a future meeting.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by Martha Turner, Secretary.

Approved by Budget Committee on 3-30-15