

Recv'd: Office of the Town Clerk
January 22, 2010 at 10:42am

*Board of Selectmen's Meeting
9:00 a.m., Saturday, January 16, 2010
2nd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall*

REVISED - Budget Meeting

Minutes

Members present: Laura Francis, John Szewczyk, James McLaughlin.

Others present: Maryjane Malavasi

Meeting called to order at 9:35 AM by Laura Francis.

REVENUE

Maryjane presented preliminary revenue projections for both state and local revenues. The state revenues are based on the fiscal indicators received from the state and local revenues are based on departmental recommendations and history. State revenues are down slightly at this time, but could change at any time. If the state cut funding by 3%, that would mean an additional loss of approximately \$14,000. Local revenues are down \$157,000 mainly due to interest income, supplemental motor vehicle taxes, and police overtime revenue reductions due to changes in billing practices. An offsetting reduction in police overtime expenditures can be seen in the RST Departmental budget.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding special duty overtime and ways that we could reduce costs.

The bottom line as presented in a spreadsheet by Maryjane indicates a .77 mill rate increase. Maryjane noted that this figure includes every request, operating and capital, as made by each department.

John said that he wants to set a goal of a zero increase on the town government side. Laura stated that she wants to bring in a budget that we can defend and work with. Jim noted that we had no control over the school budget, but would like to see a flat mill rate increase if possible.

1520 Building & Health

Laura noted that the town engineer line needs to include expenses that the Selectmen require. There was discussion as to what we anticipate using that line for. John asked to reduce the line based on the idea that we won't need it. Laura will provide a list of anticipated projects in order to more accurately budget this line item.

2020 Conservation Commission

Maryjane noted that the mowing and cleanup line request should read \$3,000 since the past due bills will be taken care of in this fiscal year. Laura noted that the additional request in the consultant line is for expertise on brook restoration at White's Farm. Both Jim and Laura stated that there is a great deal of public support to mitigate damage at White's Farm. John suggested the conservation commission use their consultant budget in this fiscal year to begin work on the brook restoration and to bring the budget request down by \$3,000.

Motion made by Laura, seconded by Jim, to reduce line 204 consultants to \$5,000 and to approve budget 2020 in the amount of \$8,740. Unanimous aye.

2560 Town Hall Expenses

There was discussion regarding electricity costs, and the history was reviewed in that line item.

Motion made by Laura, seconded by Jim, to reduce line 251 electricity by \$1,000 and to approve budget 2560 in the amount of \$52,314. Unanimous aye.

1565 Information Technology

The budget presented represents firm pricing except for line 204 consultants which Kim is still working on getting price quotes. The line item will hopefully be reduced, but will not be higher.

Motion made by Jim, seconded by Laura, to approve budget 1565 in the amount of \$45,230. Unanimous aye.

2000 Inland Wetlands

There was discussion regarding training for members. The selectmen agreed that enough funding was needed for all members to attend at least one training session.

Motion made by Laura, seconded by John, to reduce legal ads by \$100, reduce consultants by \$500, add \$400 to a new line for training, and to approve budget 2000 in the amount of \$2,550. Unanimous aye.

4035 Fire Marshal

Maryjane noted that the salary lines have been removed from this budget and a new budget created. Laura noted that she is working with Bill Witecki on a new fee structure which is not reflected in the revenue projection.

Motion made by Laura, seconded by John, to approve budget 4035 in the amount of \$3,190. Unanimous aye.

4040 Valley Shore Communications

Scott Wright submitted an adjusted request.

Motion made by Laura, seconded by Jim, to approve budget 4040 in the amount of \$67,992. Unanimous aye.

4055 Resident State Trooper Office

Maryjane noted that the salary lines have been removed from this budget and a new budget created.

Motion made by Laura, seconded by Jim, to approved budget 4055 in the amount of \$47,640.

There was extensive discussion regarding the new billing rules set by the state and our need for trooper overtime that the town pays for. Maryjane was asked to provide an analysis of expenditures in line item 142 Private Duty Local for the next meeting.

Motion made by Laura, seconded by John, to table the approval of budget 4055. Unanimous aye.

7510 Household Hazardous Waste Day

The budget increase is based on current year usage. Since the budget was submitted, fee increases were submitted for next year totaling \$650.

**Motion made by Laura, seconded by Jim, to approve budget 7510 in the amount of \$6,875.
Unanimous aye.**

Motion made by Jim, seconded by Laura, to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 AM. Unanimous aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryjane Malavasi