

## BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2019

**Members Present:** Ron Schneider, Brian Toomey, Russ Markgren, Richard DeBold, Bob Subilia, Alternate Jim Gaylord

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Jon Carter, Finance Director Jodie Sanborn, Accountant Casey Welch, Fire Chief Wayne Vetre, Police Chief Jo-Ann Putnam, Meeting Recorder Cinndi Davidson

**Bob Mulcahy, applicant for the Budget Committee**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

1. Minutes: Motion by Russ, seconded by Brian, to accept the January 30, 2019 minutes as written. Passed unanimously.
2. Budgets and CIP to Review

**~Grants:** No representatives of the requesting organizations were present. Jodie received some additional information in response to her inquiries. The following have been moved into expenses: Memorial Day/Town Flowers, MMA Membership, Harbor Park Concerts, Beach Monitoring, American Legion, Eastern Trail. Jim recused himself from voting on Red Cross and MHCH because of his connections with those organizations.

Motion by Bob, seconded by Brian, to give Patriot Riders \$1,500. Passed 6-0.

Motion by Ron, seconded by Brian, to give MHCH \$6,000. Passed 5-0-1 with Jim abstaining.

Motion by Russ, seconded by Richard, to give Red Cross \$2,000. Passed 5-0-1 with Jim abstaining.

Motion by Ron, seconded by Russ, to give Kids Free to Grow \$750 instead of \$500. Passed 6-0.

Motion by Brian, seconded by Richard, to approve the balance of the list at \$83,500. Passed 6-0.

Motion by Brian, seconded by Jim to move \$3,200 (Memorial Day/Town Flowers and American Legion) to General Government Operations. Passed 6-0.

Motion by Brian, seconded by Jim, to move \$24,500 (MMA and Eastern Trail) to the Town Manager's Budget. Passed 6-0.

Motion by Russ, seconded by Brian, to move \$8,500 (Harbor Concerts) to HR Operations. Passed 6-0.

Motion by Brian, seconded by Richard, to move \$1,800 (Beach Monitoring) to the Beach Enterprise Fund. Passed 6-0.

## **~Revenue**

Auto excise tax: the 3 year actual has been \$2.5 million.

Homestead represents what the State reimburses to the Town for residential property owners (the former "Circuit Breaker"). The amount of the State refund went up and there are many new houses in Town.

Police Department salary reimbursement: when a company hires a detail for a project.

BETE: personal property tax on business equipment.

Restaurant lease: the Town owns the land at the harbor and the restaurant owner rents the building from us.

Motion by Brian, seconded by Bob, to approve \$4,741,192. Passed 6-0.

## **~Salaries**

The number of FTE's went up when the voters approved 2 new SRO's. We pay for one and Ogunquit pays for the other.

The new HR person is more experienced and she started at a higher rate than the budget reflects.

Motion by Brian, seconded by Jim, to approve \$6,721,356. Passed 6-0.

## **~Warrant Articles**

Motion by Richard, seconded by Russ, to approve Article 7 for \$60,000. Passed 6-0.

Motion by Russ, seconded by Brian, to approve Article 8 for \$295,000. Passed 6-0.

Motion by Jim, seconded by Brian, to approve Article 12 for \$60,000. Passed 6-0.

Motion by Brian, seconded by Russ, to approve Article 13 for \$67,944. Passed 6-0.

Land for Train Platform: Downeaster's parent company would like to build another platform on the other side of the tracks, with an up and over. We own the land and may lease it to them.

2 Parcels for Solar Land: The Selectmen and Energy Committee are talking with an energy company about a solar array on 2 Town-owned parcels.

Selling the Route 109 land: We are saving on site development and building costs at the Route 9 location. Landry-French is working on the bidding for sub-contractors. The land on Route 109 that had been purchased for the fire substation can now be sold. Sale proceeds not needed for the substation would be returned to surplus. Landry-French set a GMP of \$14 million for the main building which will not be exceeded unless we have any change orders.

Motion by Brian, seconded by Russ, to sell the Route 109 parcel. Passed 6-0.

Daytime Firefighter: The number of daytime calls is increasing and coverage is thinnest then because the call firefighters are at work out of town. Back to back calls are also increasing. Hiring one additional full-time firefighter would provide 4 people on a 5-day, 40 hour shift (2 per truck). The union is OK with another person at \$34,000 for 40 hours per week. The Selectmen want an MOU with the union. Under the Garcia rule, firefighters work 42 hours per week. Staffing a 4-person platoon with 3 people is causing much of the overtime. The department has handled 5 structure fires since January 1, 2019 and the number of incidents has increased by 500 calls per year since Chief Vetre came here two years ago. Mutual aid is often not available if the other towns are on calls, too.

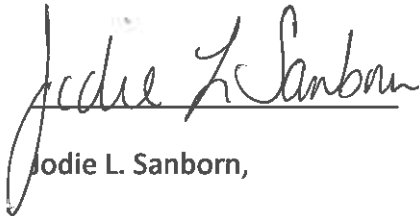
Motion by Brian, seconded by Russ, to approve hiring an additional full-time firefighter for peak period coverage for \$34,072 salary and \$17,038 benefits. Passed 5-1 with Jim opposed.

3. Adjourn

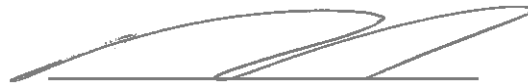
Motion by Brian, seconded by Russ, to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by,



Jodie L. Sanborn,  
Finance Director



Ronald Schneider, Jr.  
Budget Committee Chairman