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January 19, 2010
First Budget Meeting

Present: Mark Richardson, Chairman, A. Richards, C. Guiry and A. A. Milkovits
F.A.C.: R. Laroche and D. Profit

Meeting opened at 7:30 PM.

Selectmen reviewed the following budgets:

1. Highway Budget: Road Agent David Cook explained the budget line by line. The three new budget lines are:

Tree work- The Department will hire Wally's Tree Service for any trimming around the roadsides that require use of a bucket truck.

Guard rails – for replacing guard rails at the bridge on Withee Brook Road and further work and possible replacement of the box culvert on Black Brook Road.

Sweeper –for the sweeping of the roads in town center and other intersections.

Mr. Cook wanted to separate this cost from the Paved Road line.

The Selectmen questioned other changes to lines in the Highway Budget, such as increases in the Consulting Engineer line- Mr. Cook explained there will be more engineering work due to work in the wetlands area and applying for a site specific permit. The Calcium Chloride line had been reduced to \$1; Mr. Cook stated that since the Selectmen had directed level budgeting, he felt that reducing the calcium chloride would allow more money to be spent on the paved roads. Chairman Richardson was very concerned about the condition of the paved roads and would like to see an increase in the paved road line but does not want the calcium chloride eliminated all together. After more discussion, it was decided to increase the calcium chloride line to \$1,000. Selectman Richards questioned why the HWY Building Maintenance line was the same as 2009 as only half the funds were used. Mr. Cook explained that the department will be purchasing a new furnace for the barn, so all the funds will be required for the furnace and other maintenance throughout the year. The bottom line for the Highway Department is now \$412,879, still resulting in a zero percent increase over the 2009 budget. Mr. Cook discussed the HD's warrant articles - \$125,000 to purchase a new backhoe. He will be looking at John Deere, New Holland and Volvo machines for the best machine for the least money. He does feel that the costs will be less than \$125,000. The hearing for the note/bond for the backhoe is at the next Selectmen's meeting; January 26th at 7:30 PM. A.A. Milkovits will be contacting banks for financing bids for a seven-year note.

The second warrant article is to put \$20,000 in the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The Highway Department needs another pickup truck and will be looking for a good, used, repairable truck. William Downs, part-time help, will do the necessary repairs and body work. Once the truck is found then the money may be used from the Highway Equipment fund for the purchase.

2. Fire Chief David Cook discussed the Fire Department budget, which had a 2% increase over the 2009 budget. Selectmen reviewed each line. Mr. Cook explained

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the small increases. Note was made that this year is the final payment on the tanker. After more discussion, Selectmen approved the budget.

The only warrant article for the FD is for the continued replacement of the air bottles.

3. Police Chief Hutchins explained the PD budget. The increases included retirement (rates had increased) and the cruiser lease. This year the lease line is not the full amount as the insurance settlement money of \$9,375 will be used for most of the payment. The Chief discussed the PD's two warrant articles: new cruiser for \$32,000, preferably another Tahoe. He is recommending keeping the old cruiser as a "backup" cruiser that could be used for trips to court, etc. Chairman Richardson advised increasing the cruiser article to \$35,000 to cover the costs of equipping the new cruiser. The second article is to purchase two safety vests for \$5,000. Chief Hutchins explained that the vests must fit the individual officer in order to be effective. After more discussion, the PD budget was approved at this time.

The next budget meeting was set for Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:30 PM. At that time the rest of the proposed budget will be reviewed. Selectmen will discuss salaries and increases, separate from the budget meetings, at their next Selectmen's meeting.

The required hearings for the petitioned warrant article and the dog control referendum will take place at the Selectmen's meeting on Tuesday, February 9th at 7:30 PM and 8:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Barbara L. Mellett
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