



Selectmen Meeting 1/26/2016

Approved Minutes of Selectmen Meeting and Budget Hearing

Present: Selectmen Bernie O'Grady, Charlie Moser and Louise Lavoie; Brenda Wiley, Kathy Wile; Budget Advisory Committee member Paula Babel; Sue Wolpert, Kevin Maxwell, Deb Morrison; Brady Schulman; Harry Spear, Wolfgang Millbrandt, Nancy Richards, Guy Daniello, Ashley Saari; joined by Budget Advisory Committee member Paula Babel; David Baker.

Called to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Bernie O'Grady.

Approvals: Noted that the payroll and check manifests were both signed.

Bernie moved, Charlie seconded, to accept the minutes of the 1/19/16 Selectmen's meeting as written. Three votes to accept as written.

New business: Appointment papers were signed for three (3) new firefighters.

Auditor Contract was signed by Bernie O'Grady and Charlie Moser (2 signatures required). It was asked if the number in the contract was within the budgeted amount, Brenda said it was \$1000 less.

NRPC agreement was to be signed – it listed hourly amounts, and there was conversation amongst the board how that works with our budget. Charlie said we have to manage our use of the NRPC liaison to be sure we stay within the budgeted amount. Signed by Bernie O'Grady (one signature required).

Accukeep contract was tabled until the Selectmen have had a chance to go over it with Brenda.

Brady Schulman had prepared a preliminary report, at the request of the selectmen, regarding the IT infrastructure and potential IT improvements to the Mann House in particular. He said his recommendations were based on costs for Enterprise class devices, offering more control, capability, security and support than consumer class devices.

Brady first addressed Internet Services, for which he identified 5 options:

- 1) Add an additional DSL line - requires an upgrade to the firewall – the current equipment couldn't handle it.
- 2) Bonded DSL from Fairpoint – currently not available but a potential option for another time.
- 3) Upgrade Fairpoint equipment – Broadband would be at least \$10,000 for these buildings alone
- 4) Carrier Ethernet Service from Fairpoint – Commercial service, offers actual not “up to” speeds. This is the most expensive, and would cover just the Mann House.
- 5) Shared Carrier Ethernet Service – sharing same service with Police and School – costs could be split 4 ways (police, Mann House, School and Erate reimbursement) monthly, installation would be \$600 per site. Brady recommends using this number to put into the budget and said a similar number is in the school budget for an upgrade.

He asked how many (Microsoft) Office licenses we have – not known by those present. He quickly reviewed benefits of free vs purchased, addressing compatibility issues, demand for complicated fillable forms etc.

Server – off the table for now, current server functioning well as a file server only.

Computers – he priced out all pieces, said oldest are in the library and should be swapped out first, either by purchasing them new ones or putting newest in another office and shuffling those to the library. We should plan on replacing all 6 in the next 3 years, then keep a rotation going.

His top three recommendations to do ASAP –

Wiring in Mann House, upgrade central switch and the firewall + wireless option for internet.

The Board thanked Brady for his efforts and proposal, and he replied the rest of his report would follow pending communication with Microtime.

Charlie said he ballparked figures for a total cost of about \$5700 to upgrade and cost of about \$5000 for internet for the year. This cost does not include any hard or software recommendations. He also asked if this might best be a warrant article, and that he felt the Board needed time to discuss options.

Louise asked where things should be added into the budget - what would go into existing technology lines within department budgets that exist and split out total cost for Microtime and DSL services.

Charlie spoke for the warrant article idea saying these were capital improvements, and one time costs. There would be a certain economy by doing a \$6000 warrant article and doing priorities 1-3 at the same time. Further, doing it as an article would not skew budgets, which Bernie agreed to.

The transparency of a warrant article was appealing to all 3 selectmen as well.

It was agreed they would like to add a warrant article for \$6000 for technology upgrades to the Mann House to the Town Warrant.

The Budget Hearing was called to order at 8:13 PM by Bernie O’Grady

He said they would go through the budget section by section, and for people to speak up with any questions.

Conservation – no questions or comments

Culture and Recreation – noted that this year’s number is below last year’s

Asked if that included a specific number for grading the railroad bed, to which Bernie replied that it was not, but it was planned.

Library - no questions or comments

Patriotic Purposes - no questions or comments

Debt Service – asked why this increased so much? Brenda replied it reflected adding the backhoe amount

General Government

6001 - increase due to the number of elections as well as a small increase in the moderator’s stipend

6001 – TC/TX – pull out moderator’s mileage

Brenda will recode that line item

TC/TX increase – not a total/bottom line increase, it is a line item adjustment reflecting a restructuring of the salaries. Deb has added 8 hours and taken that out of Suzanne’s salary amount. Suzanne will continue as Deputy TC/TX working far fewer hours and will be paid hourly.

Total for **6001** is increased mostly by cost for number of elections (last year town only this year 2 primaries, town and general election, town meeting)

Financial Administration - no questions or comments

Assessing – 5 year revaluation happens this year, adding to that line

Legal Expenses – Noted there is not as much budgeted as was spent last year, though there is a modest increase requested.

Ashley Saari asked if pipeline funds were included in that figure? Answered by Charlie, no, that is separate account

Planning/Zoning – noted level funding

General Government Buildings – down 1%, no questions or other comments

Cemeteries – down 10%, no projects planned

Insurance – down 1%, consolidating both policies with one carrier

Advertising – 8% reduction noted

Other General Government – noted that fee for NHMA membership up slightly

no other questions or comments

Health – noted a 14% reduction due to reduction of **6022-02** Animal Control being reduced to a \$1.00 placeholder amount

Highways and Streets

6018-15 Culverts increase in culvert repairs was questioned – explained by Bernie that there is a schedule, but for 2015 the actual pieces had been purchased in 2014 so were not reflected in last year's budget.

Highway Expenses noted they were down 12% for 2016
no further questions or comments

Bernie said the Warrant Articles would be saved for discussion until the end.

Police Department - no questions or comments

Ambulance - there is a 10% increase, due to number of calls in 2015, not under our control

Fire Department - no questions or comments

Building Inspection - no questions or comments

Emergency Management –

6016 - not used last year, the amount requested is 50% reduction in last year's request and is a placeholder

6017 – *reverse the maintenance and utility amounts, bottom line (total) remains the same*

Sanitation – increase in use fee for Recycling center due to large decrease in commodities prices. Charlie further commented there is a possibility of a new site being opened in Greenville in the future, at which point they would likely withdraw from Wilton and we should reconsider our commitment should that happen.

Welfare - no questions or comments

Bernie noted that total expenses represented a 4.7% reduction from last year's budget.

Warrant Articles:

#3 Paved Roads Restoration \$50,000 Ashley Saari asked which roads were targeted this year, answered that the plan is on our town website, and that it is a chip sealing year.

#4 Pipeline Fund asking \$20,000 to be added to bring that amount available back up to the original \$80,000 approved last year.

#5 Police Cruiser \$14,000 as fund is empty now, and we need to get back on a three year cycle of replacing a cruiser (ie, each cruiser is kept for 6 years).

#6 250th Celebration Add \$2000 to 250th celebration fund. Asked about a total targeted amount, it was answered that by 2018 there would be \$8000 available for the event.

#7 Fire Department Building Fund – adding \$10,000 for building fund for addition

#8 Airpacks for FD – *please change name to “X3 Airpacks”* per Dave Baker; model listed is incorrect

#9 Carbon Bottles for FD – asked if we are replacing? Answered yes by Dave Baker

#10 Adopt Community Self-Governance Ordinance asked for an explanation; full ordinance copies are currently available at the Selectmen’s Office

#11 Highway Dept Building Fund – Selectmen agreed *this article should be deleted*, Bernie was sure the amount already in the fund would more than cover surveys and other preliminary expenses, do not need more at this time. They will ask for the full amount needed when they present a plan.

Replaced with

#11 IT Infrastructure Upgrade – Request \$6000 to use for upgrades to Mann House.

#12 Extract and Re-Purpose funds from Police Canine Fund Charlie is going to work on this, to see how best to dissolve that canine trust and potentially use the monies for IT upgrade at the Police Dept.

Noted there are two more petition articles to come forth/go through approval of signatures by the supervisors of the checklist.

Charlie moved to submit the budget as amended, Bernie seconded, motion to submit passed unanimously 3-0.

The Selectmen talked about a special work meeting to discuss the IT presentation in more detail, they will each check their calendars but Tues 2/2 at 7:30 seemed to work for all. *They will confirm so Kathy can post their Working Meeting Tuesday 2/2 at 7:30 at the Mann House*

Public Comment:

Wolfgang asked what had happened with the Liberty Gas Use case – selectmen did not know if it had been accepted.

Harry asked about KM mitigation? Charlie said the Town’s Counsel’s advice is to not be pressured by them but to prepare a list of mitigation projects. Harry added more residents have been contacted as well.

Bernie moved to adjourn the meeting, Charlie seconds and unanimous vote to adjourn was made at 8:58.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wile