

Town of Pembroke
Budget Committee Minutes

December 8, 2016

FINAL

Attendance: Clint Hanson, Pat Boucher, Tina Courtemanche, Gerry Fleury, Mark LePage, Brian Seaworth, Ann Bond, Mike Connor, Dave Doherty, Marie Chouinard, Sandy Goulet

Excused: Karen Yeaton, David Sheldon

Call to Order: 6:30pm

Minutes:

Action: Clint Hanson made a motion to approve the minutes from 12/1/16. Motion seconded by Dave Doherty. Passed 10-0-2

Library:

Susanne Whitbeck and Judy Mitchell were present to discuss the proposed Library Budget. Over the course of the presented budget the only large increase has to do with adding money to Community Programs and DVD's. This is based upon what people are interested in and community involvement. The additional funds will cover writing groups, craft groups, author visits and children's activities.

Gerry Fleury: How many library cards out?
Currently there are 3200 Library Cards Out

Ann Bond: How many employees do you have?

There are 5 employees at the library. There is one full time employee however there are always two workers in the library for safety reasons. The insurance for thus Full Time employee is the same as all other town employees.

Water Department:

Various employees of the Water Department were present to discuss the 2017 Budget. There are not major changes to the budget.

Mark LePage- Are you purchasing a new utility vehicle?

Yes they are looking to replace the current 11 year old (2005) Utility Truck. This vehicle carries the tools for the daily jobs that are had.

Mark LePage- Can you please describe what a SCADA System is?

This is a system that integrates the running of the wells. This is an automated system now that is computer integrated. So far since the system has been completed there has been a dramatic electrical savings, conserves water, and better trending for the wells.

Gerry Fleury: How do you see your future with demands for water? Long range plans for exploring for water elsewhere? Or do you look like ok given demand and population.

At peak demand can take 20% expansion before looking for a new source of water/well. Through all of the upgrades it has increased efficiency and eliminated pumping extra water that was not needed. With that said if all of the new projects being presented are approved expansion may be necessary.

Sewer Department:

Paulette Malo and Harold Thompson were present to discuss the proposed budget. The pump station upgrade will be completed in 2017. They are currently waiting on pumps to be manufactured and should be delivered in February allowing for completion of the project by late April.

Gerry Fleury: What are you facing for challenges in the future?

Capacity tends to be the ongoing battle. Town of Pembroke is currently waiting for a court decision in regards to capacity versus Allentown. If the ruling doesn't go in Pembroke's favor then capacity especially for the proposed new residences will be an issue.

Tina Courtemanche-If we have to buy in for capacity who would pay?

The new residence owners will be responsible for this fee. Currently property owners will not be held accountable for this.

Brian Seaworth-What is the justification for the dramatic plant upcharge?

The Town Hall in Allentown is now taking over accounting and billing process. These changes and the increased fee from the town led to the upcharge in the Plant line item.

Public Works:

Jim Boisvert was in attendance to discuss the proposed Public Works Budget. There is an overall decrease for the General Government buildings budget in the amount of \$13,910.00

Gerry-How did you decrease by 2 janitorial employees and still get everything done?

Everything does get done with the reduction in employees however the job responsibilities have changed. Including some of the Public Building being maintained by a current DPW Employee.

2017 Public Works will have a collective bargaining agreement on the warrant article however due to this not being finalized as of yet nothing is presented.

Equipment Rental Line decreased \$8,000 due to the MS4 in regards to catch basins has not been taken out of draft yet. This money will not be required for equipment rental if not put into place.

Mike Connor-How do the Tipping Fees look?

Currently the tipping fees are \$62.00 for Solid Waste. This has not increased in several years. Recycling fees are averaging \$7 a ton. The new recycling truck has been in service for a year. The old one was kept as a backup and the Sterling was gotten rid of.

The Public Works Department is going for a Trackless and Backhoe. Trackless attachments we currently have will fit the new machine. Trackless is the best option for plowing as we have narrow sidewalks and tight spots that larger equipment would not work for.

Updates:

David Jodoin handed out updates to budgets already reviewed previously (Fire, Police, Recreation etc.)

Warrant Articles were presented to the Budget Committee. Article 4 is blank due to Collective Bargaining Agreement not being finalized yet. The Board of Selectmen have reviewed all proposed warrant articles and have approved them.

Pat Boucher-Is there a Warrant Article for road repair on North Pembroke Road?

There is not a warrant article for this. There is however money in the 2016 operating budget to repair the bridge on North Pembroke Road. The town is currently working with the City of Concord to finalize details of the repair.

Pat Boucher updated the Committee on progress on the School budget: The Board members worked on the budget in a meeting on Tuesday. There is a conflict for SAU staff as other towns have tight deadlines due to SB2. A spreadsheet version of the budget will be provided in time for next week's meeting, however full details may not be. An overview will be presented next week, and then following week we will dive into the budget.

Ann Bond attended a NH Municipal Meeting in which the Town of Sanborn lost a right to know lawsuit. The Judge took a <Reply All> response to an email as a meeting that was not publicized. With this said please be cautious and not <reply all> to emails, if you have questions please send them to the chair directly and he can send them out.

Brian Seaworth noted the proposed county tax increase is 4.4%. This is a tentative amount as discussions have just begun in regards to this. A more definite number will be available closer to town meeting.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Clint Hanson. Brian Seaworth seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.