



Selectmen Board Budget Meeting

Tuesday, January 6, 2016

Town Office @ 5:30 PM

I. The Selectmen special meeting to review the FY 16-17 budget was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chairman George Jellison. In attendance: David Minctons, Tom Benson, Dan Norwood, Lydia Goetze and Town Manager Don Lagrange.

II. Budget Review:

~ Eliot Spiker and Margaret Vose represented the SWH/Tremont ambulance service in their request for non-profit municipal funding. They discussed the purchase of a new ambulance at a cost around \$160,000 and other very expensive equipment. They noted the past year was a good year and it was reflected in a reduction in their request for funds from the previous year of \$500 for a total of \$57,500.

~ Highway foreman Scott Alley was on hand to discuss the highway budget. Lagrange indicated an error in salaries which should be \$2,501 less than originally presented. This is an increase from previous budget by \$3,104 which includes a 1.3% potential cost of living increase and increased proportion of management fees. A \$3,428 reduction if 401K reflects an unused balance from past budgets being allocated into this budget. Overall, the highway budget has increased only \$1,941 from the previous budget or less than .5% for a total of \$330,870.

A sum totaling \$8,340 left over after the purchase of a one ton truck, a front end loader and a backhoe was deducted from the highway Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget along with a reduction in allocation for the two plow trucks from \$24,000 in the previous budget to \$15,000. A new line item was included for the purchase of anti-icing equipment in the fall of 2016 at a cost of \$28,450. The net result in the FY16-17 highway CIP is \$21,618 less than FY15-16 budget for a total of \$143,782.

~ Harbormaster Adam Thurston presented the Harbor budget with minor modifications from current budget with an increase of \$2,682 (3%) to \$109,183. Primary reason for increase in potential 1.3% cost of living increase and an additional \$800 for part time help during the summer.

The Harbor CIP was redesigned to reflect monies available for each pier and not the individual components of these locations. There were no additional funds requested for CIP relying on the existing balance of \$311,230 accumulated from previous budgets. The lower town dock has \$10,600 in reserve; \$205,275 for the Manset pier and \$63,822 for the upper town dock.

It is anticipated the upper town dock will need replacement of catwalk and steps as well as the eight finger floats with a projected cost of \$60,000. The most important pier to the town is the Manset pier and complete reconstruction is being discussed with a new harbormaster's office. Costs could reach upwards to a million dollars. Other discussions included the current outboard motor on the harbormaster boat which has sufficient reserve for a new replacement, but the current motor should be good for another 4-5 years.

~ Police Chief Alan Brown presented his budget with a focal point being a communication system replacement that would connect to all island and county law enforcement agencies. The purchase of this system would be paid during the next three budget cycles for a total cost of approximately \$46,000. A 10% savings may be realized if purchased the same time Bar Harbor and Bucksport

purchase their equipment. This equipment is referred to as Spillman and is designed for all law enforcement communication and information references. Manager Lagrange requested another \$5,000 added to the Admin computer reserve would provide sufficient funds for this year's payment. Also, another \$5,700 was added to the police computer license budget for Spillman.

Overtime was calculated to provide for all necessities and along with the proposed cost of living resulted in an increase in salaries by \$15,814 or 5% from the current budget. The overall projected FY16-17 police budget will be increased by \$23,878 (5%) to \$478,976.

An increase in the police CIP of \$2,500 resulted due to additional funds being allocated for purchase of firearms and Tasers which should be routinely replaced due to safety. Currently, there is \$28,204 available for a replacement of one cruiser and an additional \$5,000 in the current budget and with the trade in value of the Charger, a new vehicle will be planned for this year. The Selectmen will decide on this matter at their next regular meeting on January 12.

~ There was a 3% increase in dispatch salaries due to cost of living and an adjustment of overtime. As in other departments, 401K municipal retirement match decreased by \$4,914 due to the Town utilizing unspent funds from previous budgets. Overall, dispatch had a 2% budget increase for a total of \$265,940. No additional funds were added to the Dispatch CIP since it was decided available funds were sufficient for foreseeable future needs.

~ Tom Benson moved to adjourn for a short break at 8:38 PM, seconded by Dan Norwood and voted in favor 5/0/0.

~ Tom Benson moved to reconvene budget discussion at 8:45PM, seconded by Lydia Goetze and voted in favor 5/0/0.

~ The fire department request resulted in a 1% increase to \$84,931. Selectmen questioned the high sewer utility expense and the discussion continued to water use that did not go into the sewer system. Manager Lagrange suggested installing a water meter for non-sewer use such as filling the tanker truck, washing vehicles and any other maintenance needs that did not cause use of the sewer system. This may reduce the sewer expense to the fire department. Current projections for sewer cost is \$3,500 based on actual costs in FY14-15 of \$3,630.

The fire department CIP budget was adjusted to reflect a name change on one line item that was labeled 'truck replacement' to 'truck and equipment replacement'. After the current purchase of the new fire chief's truck, the balance in this line item including projected allocated funds in the FY16-17 proposal will be around \$81,000. Fire Chief Jack Martell explained the need for air pack replacements and the need for a new air compressor. It was indicated several outdated breather apparatus and tanks remained on site. It was suggested the Chief develop a replacement equipment list and research possible life safety grants for the purchase of these items. There is sufficient monies available for any match requirements. A decrease in CIP funds in the proposed fire department budget totaled \$2,083 for a FY16-17 request of \$11,130.

III. Adjourn Meeting

Tom Benson moved to adjourn meeting at 9:30 PM, seconded by David Minctons and voted in favor 5/0/0.