

Budget Committee Meeting on 5/17/18

Attendance: Dan McCormick (Selectman), Alicia McCormick, Mark Babin, Lynn Warman (guest), Andy Reed, Tabatha Littlefield, Penny Sampson (Selectman), John McIntire, Pat Haley (guest/FD), Lucia Picard, Larry King (guest/EDC), Tony Avila (Selectman)

Andy opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He read the agenda aloud. Andy was elected to remain chairman of the committee. Pat Clark was elected vice chair. Tabatha was elected to be secretary.

Discussion was held about possibly taxing in two smaller amounts/bills. The need is for more of the tax money to come in sooner to cover expenses. The county budget is up 5%. The school budget is up, also. Voters would have to approve the two-payment plan. We discussed other ideas and incentives to try to get past-due taxes to come in. It was a good talk, but no recommendations were made as of yet.

Andy expressed to Larry King (EDC) that we would like to see more collaboration between the BC and the EDC. Larry told us about some of the current endeavors they are working on to “shine up the town.” We were especially excited to hear about the Saturday Market coming July 7. That should draw in some economy.

Patrick Haley represented the FD. Bureau of Labor and Standards came in to the FD and made recommendations regarding paperwork and required physicals. FD has gotten rid of some of their outdated trucks and equipment. They have expected expenditures for next year, including: training, fuel, salaries (for assistant chief). The Budget Committee wants to check into fuel tax rebates for the FD fuel. Some big ticket items for next year are: replacement of “Scott-Air Packs” (\$4,000 ea.) 6 per truck, a new pumper truck by 2025 (\$500,000 new). Maybe we could buy used from down south where rust isn’t such an issue? FD also wants to get the parking lot done. Tony has been getting bids and recommendations from 4 companies. All of them have said 2 ½ inches would be the recommended depth, for about \$9,500. Next year, we’ll get this done! Tony asked the FD to get vehicle maintenance done locally. We also want to look into grant writing to assist with FD costs. Alicia asked the FD to be creative businessmen, to help keep costs down for taxpayers.

FD Association has no transparency with the town. The FD Association is a registered non-profit, but we can’t find a 990 or any other financial reporting. We need to know the Association is operating and reporting properly, for the good of everyone. These men represent the bravest among us; we want to support them, and we need them to be honest and transparent with the people of the community they volunteer to serve. It is our desire to avoid any appearance of impropriety. At this point, none of the Unity Selectmen have a key to the FD.

Andy thanked everyone again for coming. Next meeting set for August 9, 6:30 PM. After that, Nov. 8, 6:30 PM. Adjourned.