

Budget Committee Meeting 2/16/17

Attendance: John McIntire, Aimee Dorval, Andy Reed, Pat Clark, Lucia Picard, Tabatha Littlefield, Alicia McCormick, Tony Avilia, Penny Sampson, Emily Newell, Kari Hunt

Andy opened the meeting with a motion to accept the minutes from our previous meeting. They were accepted. Kari requested that Tabatha email those minutes to her.

The Selectmen requested we take \$179,102.71 from surplus to use on summer roads, apply \$250,000 from excise tax, receive \$34,964 from the State, and raise \$15,933.29, for a total of \$480,000. Pat asked what our surplus amount is before we take this out, but no one could answer. We make the assumption that this surplus exists because it was leftover from the summer roads loan that was not yet spent. These numbers were discussed by the committee and Emily Newell explained for us what the breakdown of spending on this total amount would be in summer 2017. The Selectmen also tried to secure a grant from Stream Smart to use towards culverts, but were denied. The motion was made to accept the Selectmen's recommendation for summer roads. Motion passed.

Motion made to make the payment on the 2nd loan for summer roads from 2016. Motion passed.

Salaries were discussed. Payroll taxes were moved from the Administration Account to Salaries. Kari asked for a raise for the clerk's salary. Tabatha asked if \$70,000 would be an adequate amount if we have to hire a different CEO or ACO. The answer was yes, it should be. Motion was made to raise \$70,000 for Salaries. Motion passed.

Motion made to raise \$1,000 for ACO/CEO/EMA Incidental Account. Motion passed.

On the Administration Account, it was noted that a large amount was spent on "computers" in the breakdown from 2016. The question was asked if we would need to spend as much this year. Kari explained to us about Trio, the municipality software company, and their costs. There are no new computers in the town office. Tabatha asked if we could set a standard of a 20 mile minimum trip in order for someone to claim mileage reimbursement. The Selectmen didn't think this was necessary. Motion was made to raise \$49,497.50 for the Administration Account. Motion passed.

The town should have a Legal Account. This would be a reserve account that will carry over from year to year to protect the town in the event of a law suit. The Motion was made to raise \$5,000 for this purpose. Motion passed.

The Septic Disposal Contract request is \$1,050. We asked if this is something we are supposed to have and if we already have a current contract for this. No, we do not. Alicia asked how many years this has rolled over to surplus because the amount raised was not spent. The motion was made to raise this amount only if the Selectmen discover before our Town Meeting that we do in fact need it, but not raise it if we don't. Motion passed.

The motion was made to raise \$500 for E-911. Motion passed.

A motion was made to raise \$29,497.26 for the Town Office Loan payment. Tabatha asked if we still have leftover funds from the sale of the old office. It was discussed that it would be best for the town to get out from under all these burdensome loans. Emily will confirm if there are no penalties if we pay this loan off sooner. The motion was adjusted to take \$10,000 from surplus from the sale of the old office, providing there are no penalties, for a total of \$39,497.26 towards the Town Office Loan payment. Motion passed.

The motion was made to raise \$1,500 for a constable. We have not used this money in recent years because the Waldo County Sheriff's Department has provided these services for us. The necessity for a constable was discussed and it was decided that there are times when things are going on in town when it would be good to have a constable present. Motion passed.

General Assistance laws have changed to include a whole year of assistance for someone who has been released from prison and requests assistance. This is a change from 30 days, previously. We know we have someone using this assistance this year, which will undoubtedly increase this expense. Motion was made to raise \$3,300 for General Assistance. Motion passed.

Andy asked if we could put the flashing school zone light and the light that shines on the veteran memorial on School St. on the same electric meter. Kari will look into this. The motion was made to raise \$8,600 for Town Lights. Motion passed.

The motion was made to raise \$18,893.18 for our share in the Regional Recycling Center. We had some discussion on how the profits from recycling factor back to us. Motion passed.

Motion was made to raise \$3,630 for Landfill Maintenance and Monitoring. Motion passed.

Due to "cause," we would like to terminate the curbside pick-up contract for recycling. The motion was made to raise \$0 for curbside pick-up of recycling. The article will still appear in the warrant to give the voters a chance to decide if they want to keep this.

Motion was made to raise \$215,000 for Winter Roads. This includes our contract for plowing plus the sand, but we would still provide the salt to mix with the sand. Motion passed.

Motion was made to raise \$2,000 for the Sand/Salt Shed. Motion passed.

Cemeteries Account expenses were clarified in the report provided by Lynn Warman. The need for "green" cemeteries was discussed. Motion was made to raise \$18,500 for the Cemeteries Account. Motion passed.

Motion was made to take \$2,730 from TIF for KVCOG. Motion passed.

The Kanokulous Beach/Recreation Account covers swim lessons, porter potty, maintenance of beach and equipment. Boat fees used to generate income for this purpose, but do not currently. Our Selectmen are not in agreement on how these fees should be applied. Penny thinks that if you use this boat dock, you should pay the fee. Tony feels that Unity residents who pay taxes have already paid their

fee. A small fee will be charged to non-residents who want to be included in swim lessons. More discussion is needed on how to apply boat fees. The motion was made to raise \$4,500 for the Kanokolus Beach/Recreation Account. Motion passed.

The Waterville Area Humane Society Contract is based on town population. The motion was made to raise \$3,070 for this contract. Motion passed.

Motion was made to raise \$0 for the Comprehensive Plan. Motion passed.

We discussed our PERC contract. The Committee asked where the \$1.25 fees for trash stickers go. We spent \$36,125.28 to Sullivan's in 2016. Stickers and dumpsters income paid this balance. We asked if we could take the difference from stickers/dumpsters and Sullivan's and reinvest it towards PERC. Yes! The Motion was made to raise \$55,891 and take \$10,000 from surplus, leftover from sticker/dumpster fees, for PERC, as long as there is \$10,000 leftover. Motion passed.

Motion was made to raise \$11,000 for Assessing Services. Motion passed.

Penny expressed her gratitude that this Budget Committee put so much thought into every item and into making changes to make our budget more efficient.