

Budget Committee Meeting 1/26/17

Member Attendance: Tabatha Littlefield, Alicia McCormick, Aimee Dorval, Andy Reed, Pat Clark, John McIntire, Lucia Picard

Selectboard Members present: Emily Newell, Penny Sampson, Tony Avila

Andy Reed opened the meeting. The minutes from our previous meeting on 12/15/16 were reviewed and accepted.

The committee continued discussion on cutting curbside pickup of recycling. Penny provided us all with a copy of the current contract with Sullivan's to review. Penny had conducted an online survey of Unity townsfolk and found no heavy preference for or against keeping curbside going.

Conversation continued on the road paving project. Emily Newell was asked if the town had hired an engineer to represent the town's best interests. She answered that we did not have an engineer. When asked if there was a bond agreement between the town and the contractor, she answered there was none that she knew of. Emily and Penny are happy with the quality of roadwork that was done. It was brought to our attention that there are still some remaining clean up items to be taken care of by the contractor in the spring.

Sidewalks were briefly discussed. Snow hinders any progress on sidewalks for now and Penny reported that we are still waiting for estimates from potential contractors.

There was some discussion about the Dorothy Quimby Library. The question was raised if we need to require the library to gather signatures along with their request in order to include it in the town warrant. It has gone both ways in the past, but most recently they have provided signatures. There has been some confusion as to how the funding provided through the town has been used or is supposed to be used.

Andy noted for our clarification that the cemetery flags come out of the cemetery budget and the roadside flags come from the American Legion.

This year, Andy will be asking our Fire Dept. for a broken down, more detailed budget request, to help the committee and the town see how the money is being used.

For our upcoming summer roads, we have \$179,000 unspent from the roads project. We will need approximately \$200,000 for the coming year in order to maintain a proactive approach to road upkeep.

The Economic Development Committee meeting was moved to February 6. There will be a meeting on this topic to include the whole town on February 11 at the Elementary School. This will bring an opportunity for the townsfolk to decide what kind of "destination" we want to be.

The next Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for February 8, at 6:30pm. We will be hearing from