

TOWN OF SEABROOK

BUDGET MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2009

Present: Don Hawkins  
Peg Weare  
Paula Wood  
Richard Maguire  
Ivan Eaton  
Aboul B. Khan  
Barry Brenner

6:00PM

Mr. Hawkins opened the meeting at 6:05PM.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES - JANUARY 15, 2009**

Minutes will be held until the next meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING - BEACH DISTRICT**

Mr. Hawkins said they need to hold another public hearing to disclose the beach district budget. Mr. Maguire suggested 3/12/09 and 3/19/09 as the snow date. Committee agreed and the meetings will need to be posted as a legal ad.

**WARRANT ARTICLES**

Michelle Heywood arrived at 6:08PM.

Mr. Hawkins briefly went through articles 1-7. No vote is required on these articles. Article 1 was read into the record per a request.

Article 8 - Mr. Hawkins said the note was expanded upon. Mr. Khan spoke and said this is the most important article.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To recommend this  
Second: Richard Maguire article.  
Unanimous

Article 9 - Operating Budget

Mr. Brenner said the default budget is subject to change and the selectmen will be meeting on Monday to review and approve.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To reduce the budget by  
Second: Michelle Heywood \$80K and move a new  
figure of \$17,960,348.

Mr. Maguire went over his proposal as a consideration for potential savings (see attached).

Mrs. Wood said she is not against cutting the budget but wished it had been brought forward at the time they were working on

each budget. Mr. Maguire commented that a lot of the items had been discussed. Mr. Eaton said he also is not opposed to cutting the budget but has a problem with it being done this way so he could not support the motion.

There was general discussion on the remaining money from 2008 and the percentage increase from the 2008 budget. Mr. Brenner spoke about the increase on the tax bills and that the tax rate for 2008 decreased 11.5%. He talked about the projects and purchases that were deferred.

Mrs. Weare said the revenues are a projection and what happens if the money does not come in. Mr. Brenner said the revenues were done very conservatively. Mr. Maguire commented that the beach residents saw an increase in valuation, which helped in decreasing the tax rate.

Mrs. Wood said she would not support any figure for the budget and explained her reasons why.

Mr. Khan spoke about the 3% increase for selectmen and that he would be making a motion on Monday to not accept the increase.

Opposed: Paula Wood  
Ivan Eaton  
Aboul B. Khan

Motion passed.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To move an operating  
Second: Michelle Heywood budget of  
Opposed: Paula Wood \$17,960,348.00.  
Ivan Eaton  
Aboul B. Khan

Motion passed.

Article 10 - SFA Contract

Mr. Maguire would support but would like to see a give and take by both parties during the next negotiations.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To recommend this  
Second: Michelle Heywood article.  
Unanimous

Article 11 - SPA Contract

Mr. Eaton said he would not support this article as he believes it is a 3-year not a 2-year contract as presented.

Mrs. Wood said all taxpayers should have a good understanding of the contracts. She said the sidebar would continue even if the contract does not pass. She read a quote from the RSA. Mr. Brenner explained it is not considered an economic cost item and based on legal counsel it stands alone. There was general discussion on the cost items.

Mrs. Wood commented that 2 years ago the selectmen and budget committee received a legal opinion on a warrant article and later that legal opinion changed.

Mr. Maguire said the cost for 2011 is \$59,060 not \$14,765 as represented.

Mr. Hawkins said it is a 2-year contract but it ties us into the 3<sup>rd</sup> year with the step increases. He says he will support this contract only because the employees have not had an increase since 2005.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To recommend this  
Second: Don Hawkins article.  
Opposed: Paula Wood  
Ivan Eaton  
Motion passed.

#### Article 12 - SSEA Contract

Mrs. Wood questioned the sidebar if the contract does not pass. Mr. Brenner said it is the same as the other.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To recommend this  
Second: Aboul B. Khan article.  
Opposed: Paula Wood  
Ivan Eaton  
Motion passed.

#### Article 13 - SEA Contract

MOTION: Richard Maguire To recommend this  
Second: Paula Wood article.  
Unanimous

#### Article 14 - Human Service Agency

MOTION: Richard Maguire To recommend this  
Second: Don Hawkins article.  
Unanimous

#### Article 15 - Library Books

MOTION: Paula Wood To recommend this  
Second: Michelle Heywood article.  
Unanimous

Article 16 - Police Cruisers (2)

MOTION: Michelle Heywood To recommend this  
Second: Aboul B. Khan article.  
Unanimous

Article 17 - Renovations Police Station

MOTION: Michelle Heywood To recommend this  
Second: Don Hawkins article.  
Opposed: Richard Maguire  
Motion passed.

Committee took a 10-minute break at 7:20PM.  
Committee reconvened at 7:34PM.

Article 18 - Rehab Well #2

MOTION: Michelle Heywood To recommend this  
Second: Richard Maguire article.  
Unanimous

Article 19 - Water Truck

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To recommend this  
Second: Don Hawkins article.  
Unanimous

Article 20 - Phase II Master Plan

MOTION: Richard Maguire To recommend this  
Second: Don Hawkins article.  
Unanimous

Article 21 - Improvements to Streets

MOTION: Michelle Heywood To recommend this  
Second: Aboul B. Khan article.  
Unanimous

Article 22 - Improvements to Drainage

MOTION: Michelle Heywood To recommend this  
Second: Paula Wood article.

Unanimous

Article 23 - Sewer Truck (1999)

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To recommend this  
Second: Paula Wood article.  
Unanimous

Article 24 - Sewer Truck (1997)

MOTION: Paula Wood To recommend this  
Second: Don Hawkins article.  
Unanimous

Article 25 - Rec Center

Mr. Brenner explained the units in the game room.

MOTION: Michelle Heywood To recommend this  
Second: Aboul B. Khan article.  
Unanimous

Article 26 - Cemetery Monuments

MOTION: Richard Maguire To recommend this  
Second: Paula Wood article.  
Unanimous

Article 27 - Council on Aging

MOTION: Paula Wood To recommend this  
Second: Michelle Heywood article.  
Unanimous

Article 28 - Revolving Account Police

Mrs. Wood commented the money goes back to the general fund and it is not stated in this article. Mr. Brenner explained where the wording came from. He explained how the funds are expended out of the account.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To recommend this  
Second: Michelle Heywood article.  
Opposed: Paula Wood  
Motion passed.

Article 29 - Revolving Account Fire

MOTION: Richard Maguire To recommend this  
Second: Michelle Heywood article.

Unanimous

Article 30 - Bidding Process

Mr. Hawkins commented about the \$5K or \$25K and that companies do tend to stay away from municipalities due to the amount of paperwork involved. He said there are policies in place for anything over \$1000.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To recommend this  
Second: Aboul B. Khan article.

Mr. Eaton and Mrs. Wood think it is too high of an increase.

Mrs. Weare commented there are many processes in to go through before you can even go out to bid.

Mr. Brenner said the intent is to get the best possible product for the lowest cost.

Opposed: Paula Wood  
Ivan Eaton

Motion passed.

Article 32 - Citizens Petition Elderly Exemption

Mr. Hawkins commented that there is no way to estimate a cost to the Town so he would not support. Mrs. Weare said you would never know until after the deadline of applications.

There was discussion over the current qualifications compared to the new qualifications.

MOTION: Don Hawkins To not recommend this  
Second: Richard Maguire article.  
Opposed: Ivan Eaton  
Present: Paula Wood  
Peg Weare

Motion passed.

Article 35 - Cemetery Encasements

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To recommend this  
Second: Paula Wood article.

Unanimous

Article 36 - Property Purchase

Mr. Khan explained the land and the use of it by the Town.

Mrs. Wood agrees with anything to keep the kids off the street but with the economic times it is a lot of money.

Mr. Brenner explained how the land came about and if it is declared a surplus then the Town has the first right of refusal.

Mr. Eaton commented that the Town could run into some legal issues.

<u>MOTION:</u>	Aboul B. Khan	To recommend this
Second:	Don Hawkins	article.
Present:	Ivan Eaton	
	Richard Maguire	
	Paula Wood	

Motion passed.

Next meeting is March 12 at 6PM with a snow date on March 19.

**GIFT CARDS**

Mr. Hawkins said he would like the money spent in Town so asked the committee for recommendations. The committee agreed to Chili's for the gift cards this year.

Deliberative session is Tuesday, February 3 at 7PM at the Community Center.

<u>MOTION:</u>	Michelle Heywood	To take a 10-minute
Second:	Paula Wood	break at 8:27PM.
Unanimous		

Reconvened at 9:00PM.

Committee signed the MS-7 form.

<u>MOTION:</u>	Michelle Heywood	To adjourn the meeting
Second:	Don Hawkins	at 9:05PM.
Unanimous		

Meeting adjourned at 9:05PM.  
Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Hawkins, Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_