

TOWN OF SEABROOK

BUDGET MEETING

DECEMBER 10, 2009

Present: Paula Wood
Don Hawkins
Peg Weare
Ivan Eaton
Cora Stockbridge
Gary Pitts
Aboul B. Khan
Absent: Richard Maguire
Jon Moore

6:00PM

Mrs. Wood opened the meeting at 6:02PM.

Mrs. Wood said she received an email from the Town Manager's secretary in regards to Virtual Town Hall and a survey that needs to be completed. Mr. Brenner gave a brief overview of the new website and how all the departments would be able to upload the information.

PREVIOUS MINUTES - DECEMBER 3

Minutes were held until the next meeting.

HIGHWAY - 310

John Starkey was present for his budgets.

Mr. Starkey gave a brief overview of his department and services. He said the 310 budget increased by about 5% over the default budget and was due to the health insurance, salt costs, equipment and overtime. He indicated the salt cost has decreased but his is using more of it.

The overtime has increased due to the bad winters we have had for the past 2 years.

Mrs. Stockbridge questioned the default budget and being in the black. Mr. Starkey said he has had to defer a lot of things and the paving hasn't been done.

Mrs. Stockbridge questioned why the public works department put salt on the roads on 12/9. Mr. Starkey said it was due to the forecast, which predicted snow to rain to freezing rain; so he was preparing to the first coat down.

Mr. Hawkins asked about the part time employee line. Mr. Brenner said the hours haven't increased but with the default he cautioned the departments and the part time employees have not been kept on as long or worked as many hours. Mr. Starkey

explained he has 2 part time laborers at 40 hours per week for 44 weeks and a part time clerk at 35 hours per week for 52 weeks.

Mr. Hawkins asked about the other contract services. Mr. Starkey explained it was for crack sealing and was only done for \$5K. The catchbasin cleaning was done with the stormwater money so this year it needs to come from this budget.

MOTION: Don Hawkins To move the figure of
Second: Peg Weare \$1,233,611.00.
Unanimous

STORMWATER - 320

Mr. Starkey said this budget is level funded. He said in early 2010 the new rules are supposed to be available and he can't predict what may happen.

Mr. Hawkins questioned why the catchbasin cleaning is in 2 budgets. Mr. Starkey said the federal government would like them to be cleaned twice per year.

Mrs. Stockbridge asked why he requested \$10K more than the Town Manager. Mr. Starkey said he wanted to put a car port over the leachate holding tank and the Town Manager thought it best to put it in the Capital Improvement Program and it should be a special warrant article.

MOTION: Paula Wood To move a figure of
Second: Gary Pitts \$115,850.00.
Unanimous

RUBBISH - 330

Mr. Starkey said the budget decreased due to the lease of the truck has been completed and the contract to haul away the rubbish away did not increase. He said the engineering services increased as they now have to oblige by the federal guidelines to operate the transfer station. He is being advised by the engineers to be proactive and he believes it may be mandated. There was general discussion on how the permit was obtained and what is required and/or mandated.

Mrs. Wood asked the Town Manager if this has to be done. Mr. Brenner said all are requirements except for the household hazardous waste day. He explained how the program worked.

Mr. Hawkins questioned line 820 and why the cost. Mr. Starkey said it is primarily due to Boston's Consumer Price Index. He said we pay to haul the trash away and transportation.

Mr. Hawkins questioned line 601 and said the budget is \$0. He said with a high workers compensation bill are we doing enough to keep the employees safe. Mr. Starkey said they are addressing the issue by providing training. Any equipment the employees need they receive. Mr. Brenner said the \$0 for 2009 is a default number and Mr. Starkey trying to keep the budget low just carried the \$0 to 2010.

Mrs. Wood questioned line 390 and asked if he is looking to build something to hold the material in. Mr. Starkey said they do hold items until the time is right to sell and has to be stored somewhere.

MOTION: Don Hawkins To move the figure of
Second: Ivan Eaton \$1,298,357.00.
Unanimous

CEMETERY - 340

Mr. Starkey said the budget has decreased by 9.5% due to the health, dental and life insurance of the parks foreman being paid out of the parks department budget.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To move the figure of
Second: Paula Wood \$120,492.00.
Unanimous

STREET LIGHTS - 350

MOTION: Paula Wood To move the figure of
Second: Gary Pitts \$67,182.00.
Unanimous

MOSQUITO CONTROL - 440

Mr. Starkey said he is requesting an additional \$10K to do more spraying for the ball games. There was general discussion on when they can spray and how it is determined when to spray.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To move the figure of
Second: Gary Pitts \$64,100.00.
Unanimous

PARKS DEPARTMENT - 450

Mr. Starkey said the increase is due to the health, dental and life insurance for the foreman. The other increase is in

overtime and is due to the use of parks that is not used during normal work hours. Mr. Starkey said there is no money in this budget for the Harborside Park but he is looking to get more grant money.

MOTION: Paula Wood To move the figure of
Second: Peg Weare \$100,662.00.
Unanimous

BEACH & PIER - 451

Mr. Starkey said the decrease is due to the beach rake being paid.

Mr. Hawkins questioned line 500. Mr. Starkey said it is for a bulldozer rental to move sand.

MOTION: Peg Weare To move the figure of
Second: Gary Pitts \$11,700.00.
Unanimous

WELCOME CENTER - 466

MOTION: Paula Wood To move the figure of
Second: Peg Weare \$11,154.00.
Unanimous

PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE - 511

MOTION: Don Hawkins To move the figure of
Second: Paula Wood \$33,237.00.
Unanimous

SOLID WASTE BUILDING - 512

Mr. Starkey said the increase is in gas to heat the building as they don't have enough waste oil to run the alternate furnace.

Mrs. Stockbridge questioned line 435 and the increase. Mr. Starkey said the building is 15 years old and needs attention.

Mr. Khan spoke about the lunch room and asked if in the future they could look into a better location.

MOTION: Don Hawkins To move the figure of
Second: Paula Wood \$27,315.00.
Unanimous

REVENUES - 310 & 330

Mr. Starkey explained the process to get a driveway permit. Mr.

Hawkins asked if the process should go through the building office so it could be followed up on. He asked when they would start charging fees for site plan reviews so the taxpayers are not paying for the project.

MOTION: Don Hawkins To move the revenues of
Second: Paula Wood \$200 for account 310.
Unanimous

Mr. Starkey explained why the revenues decreased in the 330 account and it is due to the recyclables.

MOTION: Paula Wood To move the revenues of
Second: Gary Pitts \$32,475 for account 330.
Unanimous

WARRANT ARTICLES/CIP

The first article is for paving and the money comes from a transfer of the transportation fund and highway block grant for about \$183K.

The second article is for crack sealing and is also a transfer of funds for \$35K.

The third article is for drainage and again is a transfer of funds for \$20K.

The fourth article is to replace a 1-ton truck with rack body that is used for plowing with a hydraulic lift for \$56K.

The fifth article is to replace the skid steer for \$35K.

The sixth article is a roof for the leachate holding tank for \$10K.

Mr. Starkey said they did get an additional \$15K in the highway block grant as he was able to show them we had more roads than what they had records for.

John Starkey left the meeting at 8:35PM.

The committee took a 5-minute break at 8:35PM. The committee reconvened at 8:45PM.

WATER DEPARTMENT - 520

Curtis Slayton was present for his budgets.

Mr. Slayton gave a brief overview of his department and services. A challenge he faced was the water treatment plant that is due for completion in January 2011. The earliest it would be completed in November 2010. He has included 2 months of cost into this budget in anticipation of the plant being up and running. He said the project is currently on schedule. The full time line includes a new position of chief operator for the plant. He said it is important to have this person working before the project is completed.

Mr. Slayton said the office supplies increased due to the water meter program and sending out the bills and overage bills. He said line 684 increased due to water main breaks with the widening of the roads the mains are now almost located in the center where they used to be to the side of the roads. Line 862 increased due to the number of repairs of water meters. Some of the money is recouped from the homeowner.

Mr. Hawkins said the budget has only increased by about \$100K and most of it is related to the new employee and operation of the plant. He questioned line 112 and nothing being spent but has a budget of \$25500. Mr. Slayton said they did have a part time employee who was let go in 2008. He was concerned with making it through 2008 if he hired someone but he would like to get this person back.

Mr. Hawkins said line 140 only had about \$25 spent but has a budget of \$35500; he asked what drives the overtime. Mr. Slayton said emergency call outs and they would also like to start flushing the hydrants. He said the mains could not be flushed this year due to the break under I95.

Mr. Hawkins asked what line 305 was used for. Mr. Slayton said it was for the arsenic notices that have to be in 3 local papers.

Line 410 increased due to the plant going online. Mr. Slayton said some chemicals that are added to the wells will go away when the plant goes online but it won't be that much.

Mr. Eaton asked if the new position would have to be negotiated into the union. Mr. Brenner said it is in the budget but would have to be for the union.

There was general discussion on the operation of the plant and having someone who knows how to run it. Mr. Slayton said the plant uses sulfuric acid which is very dangerous.

Mr. Brenner said in order to operate the plant we are required to have a grade III operator. If the budget doesn't pass they would have to find the money elsewhere.

There was general discussion on the cost to operate the plant over a year's time. After calculations for 2010 they estimated about \$300K to run the plant for a year.

Mrs. Stockbridge asked if the Selectmen would look into the water rates. Mr. Brenner said there is a study underway and a report will be forthcoming.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To move the figure of
Second: Gary Pitts \$1,277,899.00.
Unanimous

GRUHN SITE REMEDIATION - 525

Mr. Slayton explained what he is working on to eliminate or reduce this budget. He said he has found there is nothing to end this.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To move the figure of
Second: Paula Wood \$26,503.00.
Unanimous

REVENUES - 520

Mrs. Stockbridge asked why the decrease. Ms. Knowles explained the transfer from the general fund.

MOTION: Paula Wood To move the revenues of
Second: Gary Pitts \$581,765 for water.
Unanimous

WARRANT ARTICLES/CIP

First article is to purchase a utility truck to replace a truck that is currently not being used for \$30,186.

Second article is to clean well #5 for \$20K. Mr. Slayton said he would like to see this well get 350-400 gallons per minute.

Curtis Slayton left the meeting at 9:27PM.

Next meeting is December 17 at 6PM.

There was general discussion on the Town Manager accounts and having a meeting to discuss. They would also need to have a meeting for warrant articles.

The committee agreed hear the Town Manager's account on January 7 and warrant articles on January 14.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed:

Paula Wood, Chairman

Date: _____