

TOWN OF SEABROOK

BUDGET MEETING

JANUARY 8, 2009

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

6:00PM

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

PREVIOUS MINUTES - DECEMBER 15, 2008 & DECEMBER 18, 2008

Committee will review at next meeting as they just received copies this evening.

HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY - FAMILIES FIRST

Margie Wachtel was present to discuss the increase. She gave an overview of the services provided and the programs that are offered.

Bonnie Armentrout, Welfare Director, commented that she refers a lot of her clients to Families First and they have an excellent program. She said if they were not available her budget would be a lot higher.

Mr. Maguire questioned the tax-free services they receive from Portsmouth. Ms. Wachtel said their office is in Portsmouth and they utilize the police, fire, ambulance, and etc. with no additional costs. She said they would like to increase Portsmouth's share to get them inline with other communities.

MOTION: Paula Wood To include the increase
Second: Don Hawkins and approve the human
Unanimous service agencies in the
amount of \$141,030.00.

SEWER DEPARTMENT - 521

Warner Knowles was present for his budget. He provided an update on the process to get rid of the sludge. The cost of running the 2nd blower is the problem with the electricity cost. Mr. Knowles said if PMS Biotech is not paid due to any savings then the interest is not added to the contract cost.

Mr. Hawkins said the equipment could only be removed if they are not meeting the sludge reduction, which they are, per the contract.

Mr. Knowles said they have told him there would be no additional cost to the Town and the company is looking to correct the problem with the electricity.

Mr. Knowles said the incident that occurred was due to an operator who left the valve open. PMC has said until the problem is corrected they cannot take in any more sludge.

Mrs. Wood said she has asked for the interest amount on the 26-years as Mr. Knowles had indicated it would take to pay off the contract. The warranty in the contract is for one year and is for parts only. She said she understands after the last meeting 2 employees were hurt and she does not believe we should be a guinea pig for a new experiment; it is not worth saving a few extra dollars.

Mrs. Wood asked if any of the employees are going places to promote this new process. Mr. Knowles said not to his knowledge. Mrs. Wood suggested Mr. Knowles look into this.

Mrs. Wood asked how the incident that occurred would affect our workers compensation who we already have concerns with insuring the Town. Mr. Knowles explained the incident that occurred. He advised the committee as to the corrective actions that were taken.

Mr. Eaton asked if it could be dated back as to when the odors started. Mr. Knowles said it could go back to when the new process started.

Mrs. Wood asked how long the contract is projected out for. Mr. Knowles said he is not sure. The payments have been held but the Town Managers advised him to make the payment. Mr. Brenner commented that the payments were made in arrears but the payments now are being held until the electrical issues have been resolved.

There was general discussion on the equipment and the Town of Seabrook being the first in the area for this process.

Mrs. Wood commented that everything is a "what if" and nothing is concrete. It is not fair to the taxpayers to use money for "what if".

MOTION: Don Hawkins

To move the figure of
\$1,811,947.00.

Mr. Eaton commented he would just like the people to understand what is going on.

Second: Richard Maguire
Opposed: Paula Wood
Abstain: Ivan Eaton
Motion passed.

Mr. Maguire suggested the Town Manager update the budget committee every couple months on the fees paid towards the contract and any costs associated.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - 240

Joe Titone was present for his budget. He gave a brief overview of the department and what they do.

MOTION: Paula Wood To move the figure of
Second: Ivan Eaton \$134,141.00.

Mr. Maguire questioned line 240 and what amount would be spent out of this line. Mr. Titone said about 40% would be expended as they have new equipment that everyone would need to be trained on. About 80-85% of the bottom-line to be expended.

Unanimous

WELFARE ADMIN - 470

Bonnie Armentrout was present for her budget. She gave a brief overview of the department and what services she provides.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To move the figure of
Second: Ivan Eaton \$83,191.00.

Unanimous

WELFARE DEPT - 471

Bonnie Armentrout was present for her budget. She explained why the rental decreased and what is required in order to receive assistance for rent.

MOTION: Paula Wood To move the figure of
Second: Ivan Eaton \$147,850.00.

Unanimous

Committee took a 10-minute break at 7:20PM.
Committee reconvened at 7:31PM.

ASSESSING - 160

Angela Silva was present for her budget. She gave a brief overview of the department and what the office does and the services provided.

Ms. Silva said the valuation has to legally be updated once every 5-years. She tries to make small adjustments yearly to try and keep between 90-100%. In order to keep the power plant valuation in line she needs to keep the resident's in the 90% range. She said they have agreed with a number with the plant for this year and still negotiating for next year.

Ms. Silva said she is asking for money to update the pictometry program that has not had an update since 2006.

Mrs. Wood asked about the part-time employee line and that there were no expenditures. Ms. Silva said she just level-funded it and would only need if someone went out on long-term disability.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To move the figure of
Second: Paula Wood \$316,494.00.
Unanimous

TREASURER - 131

Mr. Brenner said this account is level funded, no increase.

Mr. Brenner explained that the roles are different for the treasurer and the finance office.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To move the figure of
Second: Aboul B. Khan \$22,280.00.
Unanimous

FINANCE DEPT - 130

Debra Knowles was present for her budget. She gave a brief overview of the department and what services are offered.

Ms. Knowles said the auditors report is due in by mid-January.

Mr. Hawkins questioned line 390 and GASB. Ms. Knowles explained they would need to show liability of future retirees sick time, vacation, etc. This cost would be for a consultant to come in and identify the liabilities.

Mr. Maguire questioned line 111. Ms. Knowles said an employee moved from the Town Manager's budget to the finance. Mr. Brenner said the position was in the budget for 2007 but no in 2008. He has no reason for why it was not in the budget.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To move the figure of
Second: Paula Wood \$366,324.00.
Unanimous

DEBT - 800

Mr. Brenner explained where the figures arrived at for 2 warrant articles. One article was in 2007 and the other in 2008. This is the largest contributing factor to the increase in the overall budget. The over-expenditure is due to an error in calculation on the principal for the design phase. The next borrowing will take place after construction company makes schedule of project. Mr. Brenner explained the different options looking at for the remaining funds needed.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To move the figure of
Second: Ivan Eaton \$569,483.00.
Opposed: Paula Wood
Motion passed.

Mr. Hawkins asked how the committee feels about exploring the information provided by John Starkey on double beach runs and transfer station closing on Sunday's.

Mr. Eaton said he is not in favor of supporting either.

Mrs. Wood said she is not in favor of closing the transfer station on Sunday's but the double beach run should be considered. She said we don't subsidize businesses and rental properties are considered businesses.

Mr. Maguire commented that the saving is about \$4K for the double run. He would not be in favor of eliminating. He would be agreeable to further discussion on the closing of the transfer station on Sunday's.

Mrs. Weare said we do make money of commercial for cardboard and recyclables. She is not in favor of eliminating the double run and said it is up to the Selectmen to consider not the budget committee.

Mrs. Wood said she took offense that the information on the double runs at the beach was discussed at a selectmen's meeting and the committee was not informed as previously requested. She asked that the information asked for be given with a little more consideration in regards to the committee.

Mr. Khan said he received the request from Mrs. Wood and apologized she was not contacted prior to the meeting.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To continue with budget
 Second: Ivan Eaton as previously approved.
 Opposed: Paula Wood
 Motion passed.

Mr. Hawkins asked for the status of warrant articles and union contracts. Mr. Brenner said the union contracts are complete and will be available to the budget committee. The warrant articles will be provided in draft form to the committee at the next meeting.

CHANNEL 22

Equipment has been ordered and the company will be in on Friday to install and work on the existing equipment. Shaylia Marquis explained the equipment that would be replaced.

Mr. Brenner said the default budget would be available at the next meeting.

Mr. Hawkins requested that workers compensation costs be provided for the last 3-years broken down by department. Mr. Brenner said he would see if the carrier has something they can provide.

The final total of the budget for the budget committee will also be available at the next meeting.

BEACH DISTRICT

The committee will hear this budget at the next meeting.

Mrs. Wood asked if the committee would be meeting all year as in the past. The feeling is they would continue with the meetings.

MOTION: Paula Wood To adjourn the meeting
 Second: Aboul B. Khan at 8:47PM.
 Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:47PM.
 Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed:

Don Hawkins, Chairman

Date: _____