

TOWN OF SEABROOK

BUDGET MEETING

JANUARY 15, 2009

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

6:00PM

Mr. Hawkins opened the meeting at 6:03PM.

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

Correction on December 15 minutes on first page for building budget should read \$116,834.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To adopt the minutes of
Second: Paula Wood 12/15 with correction.
Unanimous

Corrections on December 18 minutes page 2, 4th paragraph strike the word "question" and add "how".

Correction to the spelling of Mr. Khan's name to "Khan".

There was discussion on whether or not to add the comment from Maureen Ward about responsibility when a student goes from Seabrook Middle School to the high school. Committee did not agree to add the comment.

MOTION: Don Hawkins To adopt the minute of
Second: Aboul B. Khan 12/18 with corrections.
Abstain: Paula Wood

Mrs. Wood questioned the warrant articles and not getting them with the recommendation from the selectmen. She called the LGC to ask for proper procedure and was told the selectmen need to recommend or not before the budget committee votes. She suggested holding the public hearing and then post a meeting for the following Thursday to reaffirm the votes after the selectmen makes their recommendation.

Mr. Brenner commented that the citizen's petition closed Tuesday at 4PM and the planning board submitted articles late Tuesday evening. He said the warrant is being reviewed by Town Counsel and expected back Monday or early Tuesday morning.

BEACH DISTRICT

Mr. Maguire presented the budget for the beach district. He pointed out that the beach district is self-sufficient in that they receive no money from the taxpayers or budget of Seabrook. He discussed the sources of revenue.

Mr. Maguire went over the proposed budget and the actual budget for 2008. He said the major increase is for building maintenance for renovation to the rental property.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To move the figure of
Second: Michelle Heywood \$79,700.00.
Unanimous

RISK MANAGEMENT - 121

The Town Manager is recommended the budget committee reduce line 480 from \$151,173 to \$147,251.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To move the amended
Second: Aboul B. Khan figure of \$543,223.00.
Unanimous

REVENUES

There was discussion on the administrative cost on the police private details. The 20% is on the wages only. Mrs. Wood asked if the 20% is enough to cover the cost so that the taxpayers are not paying anything.

Mr. Hawkins questioned why we do not charge for the benefits on the details. He would like to see the selectmen re-visit this.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To move the revenue
Second: Michelle Heywood figure of \$4,347,308.00.
Unanimous

Mrs. Wood commented that the motion made is to disclose information only it has not effect on the budget.

FINAL BUDGET NUMBERS

Mr. Hawkins went through the charges that totaled the final budget of \$18,040,349.

LABOR CONTRACTS

SFA - 1-year contract, 3% increase with no increase since 2008. There is a change in coverage for S.T.D. that will go from \$500 per week to \$750 per week. The cost will be \$42,253 from 4/1/09 to 12/31/09 and a cost of \$14,085 from 1/1/10 to 3/31/10.

Mr. Hawkins asked if anything was given back to the Town during the negotiations with SFA. Mr. Brenner said no but the increase of 3% could be looked at as a 2-year period as they did not get an increase in 2008. He said they did not ask for any other changes in the contract.

There was general discussion over the health plans and what the employee contribution is.

Mrs. Wood asked for the cost of the JY Plan. Mr. Maguire provided information on the plans he obtained from the Ms. Knowles. He commented that the employees might not have received an increase in the form of a paycheck but certainly received increase in health plans. He said it is rare for an employer to pay 100%. Mr. Brenner said yes in the private sector but not so for municipalities.

Mrs. Wood requested information on the number of employees per each health plan. Ms. Knowles said she would get that information.

Mr. Brenner said the life insurance and L.T.D. had no increase for FY2009 and the S.T.D. had a decrease.

Mr. Maguire asked if the figure includes all of the benefits. Mr. Brenner said it does. The overtime is also calculated into the figure.

SSEA - 1-year contract with 3% increase and have not received an increase since 2005. They also requested that longevity be open to all unit employees.

Mr. Hawkins indicated he was under the impression the Town was trying to do away with longevity. Mr. Brenner said there is also another bargaining unit looking to bring in longevity.

Mr. Brenner explained the sidebar agreement. If an employee chooses not to enroll in the Town's health plan they would get a stipend. The agreement was approved by the selectmen and signed by the chairman on behalf of the board.

Mrs. Wood questioned when the agreement was signed. Mr. Brenner said it was conducted in non-public session and reported out in a public meeting. Mrs. Wood requested a copy of those minutes.

There was discussion over the sidebar and if it is a cost item or cost savings. It was said this is a taxable item and

considered a stipend. Mrs. Wood said her point is this sidebar should have been put before the voters.

Mr. Maguire said not every instance would it be considered a savings. It could potentially cost the Town money where previously there was no cost.

SEA - 1-year contract with a 3% increase have had no increase since 2008. This union is also looking to bring back longevity to all unit employees.

SPA - 2-year contract with a 3% increase in first year and 3% increase in second year and have not had an increase since 2005. There is also a new step added to the pay plan in 2011, \$100 additional for uniforms. The sidebar agreement is for a rate increase in the private details.

Mrs. Wood questioned that when this was reported out to the public it was after the date signed on the sidebar. She quoted from the budget minutes that Mr. Brenner indicated if it had not been reported out it should have been. Her point is this agreement was not done legally. Mr. Brenner disagrees and says it was done by statute.

Committee took a 10-minute break at 8:10PM.
Committee reconvened at 8:20PM.

WARRANT ARTICLES

Article 2 - Mr. Brenner provided a handout and gave an overview of where the Town stands with this project. He explained why the cost has increased. Completion of the project is expected by June 2009.

It was explained there was a break in the 3rd line and what the water department has done to correct. Mr. Khan explained the area where the second break has occurred.

The committee briefly went through articles 3-14.

Article 15 - Mr. Brenner explained this is the highway block grant and what it is used for and how the money is raised. Mr. Khan said there is a HB to raise the \$5 to \$20 that is paid when registering a vehicle.

Article 16 - Mr. Brenner said this article is comparable to article 15.

The committee briefly went through articles 17-19.

Mrs. Wood asked if the vehicles requested to be replaced would be traded/sold as indicated. Mr. Brenner said that is the intent of the selectmen.

Article 20 - Mr. Brenner said this article is from the cemetery committee and is the same article that is put on yearly.

Article 21 - Mr. Brenner explained the article. He said they have a group, TASC, who is requesting funding. He said it is a last minute request but the group did make a presentation to the selectmen. Mrs. Wood said if the selectmen makes a recommendation then the agency would need to come in and present to the budget committee on Thursday. She believes if the figure is disclosed at the public hearing it cannot be changed after.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To move the request is
Second: Don Hawkins too late and they will
not be taking action.

Present: Aboul B. Khan
Opposed: Paula Wood & Peg Weare
Motion passed.

Article 22 - Mr. Brenner explained the article. Mrs. Wood asked if it would need to be voted on every year if they need seed money. Mr. Brenner said it would not.

Article 23 - Mr. Brenner explained this article is similar to article 22. Mr. Hawkins asked how it relates to the article last year. Mr. Brenner said the funds would go first for the purchase of an ambulance and everything else second. Mrs. Wood said the article does not state that. Mr. Maguire explained how he reads the article and what ambulance services entail. It was discussed as to what ambulance service is and what it means.

Article 24 - Mr. Brenner explained this article is to change the amount on the bidding process. He said it costs several hundred dollars to run the legal ads.

Article 25 - This is a conservation commission article.

Articles 26-31 - are planning board articles.

Article 32-36 - are citizen petition articles.

Mr. Brenner said the unreserved fund balance would fund none of the articles.

DEFAULT BUDGET

It was stated that the default budget is the responsibility of the selectmen to put together the default budget. Mr. Brenner explained how the figure was derived at. He went through the items that are considered contracts. It is about a \$30K difference between the proposed budget and default budget. He explained the gas, electricity, diesel, etc. are considered contracts but it does not include new uses of those items.

The workers compensation information requested was received and stated that it should be looked at.

PUBLIC HEARING

The agenda will be to look at work related items, school budget public hearing then the town budget public hearing. Warrant articles to be read.

The committee would like a handout for the public hearing listed by department and total.

The committee will hold a meeting on Thursday, January 22 at 6PM to vote on warrant articles.

The public hearing is Monday, January 19 at 6PM held at the community center with a snow date of Tuesday, January 20.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To adjourn the meeting
Second: Paula Wood at 10:02PM.
Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 10:02PM.
Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed:

Don Hawkins, Chairman

Date: _____