

TOWN OF SEABROOK

BUDGET MEETING

AUGUST 20, 2009

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

6:00PM

Mrs. Wood opened the meeting at 6:05PM.

PREVIOUS MINUTES - MAY 21

Mrs. Stockbridge had some changes to the minutes and they were discussed.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To adopt the minutes of
Second: Don Hawkins May 21 with changes.
Unanimous

PREVIOUS MINUTES - JUNE 25

Continued until the next meeting.

MEETING - LIBRARY

Ann Robinson and Eric Small were present for this meeting.

Mrs. Wood said some questions were raised at the last meeting on the default budget. Ms. Robinson explained the budget and how it is done with the library trustees. She said there are contracts for the maintenance of equipment and as the equipment ages the costs increase. There was a contract for heating oil in 2008 but in 2009 the price was high and they did not lock in a rate. The increase in the part-time line was for a new position authorized in 2008 and this position has been crucial to the library. Ms. Robinson said the library has picked up over the past 2-years and she discussed some of the upcoming programs.

Mrs. Wood said the new part-time position could not be added to another default budget it has to go back as if a new position again.

Mr. Hawkins commented that questions on the library came up as the default budget only had one line and the committee did not agree with the methodology of the default budget.

Mrs. Stockbridge said the 2009 default budget was higher than the proposed budget by about \$12K and about \$44K higher than the 2008 budget that was also default. Ms. Robinson explained there were personnel changes, health insurance increased from single plan to family plan and an employee enrolled in the retirement plan.

There was general discussion on what is considered a contract.

Mr. Brenner explained where the 2009 default budget reflects the 2008 figures and in some instances the default budget is higher than the proposed budget.

STATUS OF 2010 BUDGET

Mr. Brenner said the vast majority of the budgets have been submitted and meetings are ongoing with the department heads. The human service agencies have been sent a letter regarding their requests and requests have been coming in.

Mrs. Wood asked if the print could be made larger. Mr. Brenner said he would speak with the finance office.

Mrs. Wood asked if the column for department heads could be put back in the budget. Mr. Brenner said no he makes the request to the Board of Selectmen and the department heads work under him. He said there is no value to having both in the budget. Mrs. Wood said she disagrees and feels there is value. Mrs. Stockbridge said they as a committee have the right to request information and they could ask the department heads for the information when they meet with the committee.

MOTION:	Paula Wood	To request that the
Second:	Cora Stockbridge	department head request
		be included or made
		available to the
		committee.

There was discussion on what help this information would be to the committee.

Mrs. Stockbridge said RSA32 states that pertinent information be furnished to the committee. Mr. Brenner said in the State of NH with Town Manager form of Government he is the one to provide the budget to the Selectmen who then in turn provide it to the budget committee. There is no legal requirement to provide the department heads request to the Selectmen and/or the budget committee.

Opposed: Don Hawkins, Peg Weare and Aboul B. Khan
Motion passed

Mr. Eaton said the air conditioning article passed at Town Meeting and the Town Manager at the Selectmen's meeting said that there is no money to turn it on. Mr. Brenner explained the budget had money in it for the air conditioning however, the budget did not pass and the default budget has no money in it to operate it. Mrs. Stockbridge said if an article passes for a vehicle but the budget is default does it mean the Town cannot run the vehicle. Mr. Brenner said no it would replace an existing vehicle, which would have money in the budget to cover the operating expenses.

Mrs. Weare said there was never a thought about electricity for copiers, computers, etc. it was just considered a normal operating expense.

There was general discussion on the bottom-line budget and where the Town stood at the end of 2009.

LGC WORKSHOP

Mrs. Wood said copies were made and available to members who could not attend.

There was discussion on the default budget being done with unit measures or dollar amount. Mrs. Stockbridge said the Town has always done the dollar amount.

Mrs. Wood questioned the 1.9 million dollars for the school and said it is a lot of money. She said if the budget has already been approved how can the school enter into a contract with Honeywell. Mr. Moore said the money was taken from the unexpended fund balance and they had the money to do it. Mrs. Stockbridge questioned the special meeting. Mr. Moore said they are looking into how it could be done. He will get the answers and bring back to the committee.

Mrs. Wood said she would like to invite the school board to the next meeting to discuss.

Next meeting will be September 17 at 6PM.

MOTION: Paula Wood To adjourn the meeting
Second: Aboul B. Khan at 7:21PM.
Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:21PM.
Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed:

Paula Wood, Chairman

Date: _____