

TOWN OF SEABROOK

BUDGET MEETING

DECEMBER 17, 2009

Present: Paula Wood
Peg Weare
Ivan Eaton
Cora Stockbridge
Gary Pitts
Brendan Kelly
Richard Maguire

6:00PM

Absent: Don Hawkins
Jon Moore

Mrs. Wood opened the meeting at 6:04PM.

Mrs. Wood had handouts for the members. She also received an email from the Maureen Ward regarding Monday's meeting with the school and a copy of the legal action by the Chair of the Board in Hampton. Not all members can be present for the meeting due to several meetings that night and each going to a different meeting. Mrs. Wood will respond that they will wait and see what Monday brings and if there are questions to be answered.

PREVIOUS MINUTES - DECEMBER 10

Mrs. Stockbridge said minutes of November 5, 12 and December 3 still need to be approved. Minutes were held until the next meeting.

Mrs. Stockbridge commented that she would like to see the names on the motions when not unanimous.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT - 210

Paul Garand was present for his budgets.

Mr. Garand said the only increase is in the health insurance and it is contractual they have no control over it. Postage increased as it is now being charged to each department.

Mr. Maguire questioned line 810. Mr. Garand said his mileage reports were just turned in totaling over \$1700.

MOTION: Paula Wood To move the figure of
Second: Gary Pitts \$119,958.00.
Unanimous

HEALTH DEPARTMENT - 410

Mr. Garand said the budget has been level funded. The mileage and tolls is split between the building and health departments and it is for all the employees with the departments.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To move the figure of
Second: Cora Stockbridge \$72,567.00.
Unanimous

REVENUES - 210 & 410

Mr. Garand explained the revenues.

MOTION: Paula Wood To move the figure of
Second: Gary Pitts \$91,400.00 for revenues
Unanimous in 210 account.

MOTION: Paula Wood To move the figure of
Second: Gary Pitts \$7,300.00 for revenues
Unanimous in 410 account.

LIBRARY - 480

Ann Robinson and Eric Small were present for this budget.

Ms. Robinson gave an overview of the department and services. She said the Brown Library has air leaking in the basement and water leaking in the chimney. The increase in the Library budget was discussed as well as the employees receiving a 2% COLA increase as they do not receive step increases.

Mrs. Stockbridge asked about the insurance plan and if they go through the Town. Ms. Robinson said it is but her employees do not have the JY Plan.

Mrs. Stockbridge questioned the increases for the employees as the Town has no money budgeted for increases for the employees not under contract. She asked the Town Manager if the non-contractual employees would receive an increase if the budget passes. Mr. Brenner said that is a determination of the Selectmen. He explained how the Library is different in how they receive their money from the Town.

Mrs. Stockbridge asked about the payroll being done through the Town. Ms. Robinson said they could look into it. Mr. Small said they looked into it before but he doesn't remember the outcome.

Ms. Robinson went over various things they are doing to conserve and save money.

Mrs. Stockbridge asked how the money for books would get back in the budget if it is not in it now. Mr. Small said they haven't done that for this year as they have done a warrant article and

it has always passed.

Mrs. Wood asked if the budget fails would they still give the employees an increase. Mr. Small said they would have to look at that as that has not been discussed.

Mrs. Wood asked how they are going to get money for the repairs at the Brown Library. Ms. Robinson said she is looking into grant money and probably do some fundraising.

Mr. Maguire questioned the actual expenditures for 2007 and 2008 and if they are accurate. Mr. Brenner said they were both default years and explained how the money is disbursed to the Library. Mr. Maguire commented that 2009 was also a default budget and it jumped to \$514K. There was discussion on the increase and new employees. Mr. Maguire said he cannot support a budget with a 2% increase for employees as it is not consistent with the other department budgets.

Mr. Kelly commented about the raises and that the Town employees are represented by union's who negotiate for their pay. Mrs. Wood & Mrs. Stockbridge commented there are elected officials and part time employees with no representation within the Town. Ms. Robinson said without the increase it is \$5079 difference in the budget.

Mr. Eaton questioned the education pay. Ms. Robinson said it is for employees who have a degree. He said it is like receiving a bonus.

MOTION: Paula Wood To move a figure of
\$538,813 which is less
the \$5079 for increase.

There was discussion on the correct figures and it was determined that \$523,744 would be the correct figure to motion for.

Mrs. Wood amended her motion to reflect the correct figure of \$523,744.00.

Second: Richard Maguire
Opposed: Peg Weare and Brendan Kelly
Abstain: Ivan Eaton
Motion passed 4-2.

WARRANT ARTICLES

The only article for the Library is for books for \$40K. Mr. Brenner said the Selectmen voted on this article when the Library budget was presented.

Mrs. Stockbridge asked if this would be the wording used. She would prefer to wait until the articles are received with exact wording.

Ann Robinson and Eric Small left the meeting at 7:10PM.

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

SEWER DEPARTMENT - 521

Warner Knowles was present for his budget.

Mr. Knowles provided an overview of his department and services. He said he tried to hold the budget. He went over where he has been trying to save money.

Mrs. Wood questioned line 510. Mr. Knowles said it is up and down every year depending on what they need. Line 616 increased due to more requirements by the EPA and DES. Line 625 increased due to the way the water and sewer bills go out and they pay half the cost with the water department.

Mrs. Stockbridge questioned the \$138K overage in the budget. Mr. Knowles said as of today they are in the negative by about \$2K. Mr. Brenner explained the water and sewer utilities are separate funds. He explained how the costs are funded and if they are short the money is transferred from the special fund.

Mrs. Stockbridge asked about line 111 increasing by \$26K. Mr. Knowles said the increase is not due to any new employees being added and some employees receive step increases. The health insurance decreased as an employee left and the new employee has a different plan.

Line 310 decreased as the engineering services were paid out of the warrant article. Line 410 decreased as the old process to remove sludge is back in place.

Mrs. Stockbridge asked about the bio-tech process. Mr. Brenner said they are still in litigation. The legal fees have cost \$198K plus. He said the case was given to the LGC and they reviewed it but it is not covered under the Town's policy. Mr. Brenner said the fee is being paid out of the sewer fund. Mrs. Wood asked why it's not included in the budget. Mr. Brenner

said they did not expect to have legal expenses in 2010 when the budget was created. He said they should have the history included in the budget and he would check with finance.

Mr. Maguire said in his opinion the budget should have been amended to include this figure and budgeted for 2010 where they are still in litigation. He said without the \$198K for legal fees the budget would be well under budget and not in the red.

Mrs. Wood asked what has not been purchased to cover this \$198K. Mr. Knowles said the stock has been run down to bare minimum. He said you estimate what will be used and sometimes it goes over and sometimes under.

Mr. Maguire said the budget is well under without the legal expenses and he cannot support this budget with a figure for the same amount as in 2009. He would propose a line for legal expenses in 2009 and a projection for 2010. Mrs. Stockbridge and Mrs. Wood agree.

MOTION:	Peg Weare	To hold this budget
Second:	Paula Wood	until they get the
		correct information on
		the sewer budget.

Mr. Maguire asked if they could get a revised budget with a legal expense line with expenditures for 2009 and projection for 2010. Mr. Brenner said he could get a revision to show the history. In terms of 2010 things happen and when the budget is prepared they do their best to guesstimate. There was general discussion on how the budget is prepared and when changes should be made to the budget requests.

Mrs. Stockbridge asked if the budget would change and go to the Selectmen for review and approval. Mr. Brenner said it would.

Abstain: Brendan Kelly
Motion passed.

Mr. Maguire said for 2010 a substantive figure of \$50K for legal fees should be included in the budget for PMC Bio-Tech.

Mrs. Wood asked if there any other things in the history that was not included within the budget. Mr. Brenner said not that he is aware of.

Warner left the meeting at 8:17PM.

HUMAN SERVICE AGENCIES

Mrs. Wood said there were 3 increases and Seacoast Youth Services was the largest increase. Mr. Brenner said they did come in and gave a presentation to the Selectmen.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To move the figure of
Second: Cora Stockbridge \$148,410.00.
Unanimous

Next meeting is Monday, December 21 at 6PM.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To adjourn the meeting
Second: Cora Stockbridge at 8:20PM.
Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.
Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed:

Paula Wood, Chairman

Date: _____