

TOWN OF SEABROOK

BUDGET MEETING

JANUARY 14, 2010

Present: Paula Wood
Peg Weare
Cora Stockbridge
Gary Pitts
Richard Maguire
Don Hawkins
Ivan Eaton
Aboul Khan
Barry M. Brenner

6:00PM

Mrs. Wood opened the meeting at 6:10PM.

Mrs. Wood handed out a copy of the website with virtual town hall and asked if there is anything that a member would like to add to please let her know.

There were comments about the representatives of the budget committee on the website. They would like Richard Maguire to say Beach Precinct Rep. The current budget should state the year of the budget. The meeting information should say November through January meet weekly and February through November should say every 3rd Thursday and as needed.

PREVIOUS MINUTES - DECEMBER 17, DECEMBER 21 & DECEMBER 29

December 17 minutes held until each member receives a copy with the changes.

MOTION: Don Hawkins To adopt the minutes of
Second: Gary Pitts December 21.
Unanimous

December 29 add Ivan Eaton and Jon Moore as being absent.

MOTION: Don Hawkins To adopt the minutes of
Second: Aboul B. Khan December 29 as amended.
Abstain: Jon Moore
Motion passed.

Mrs. Wood said she handed out copies of RSA 32 & 33 regarding the Town Manager form of government and made reference. Mr. Brenner said if she wants to comment on the Town Manager she should read it in its entirety. Mrs. Wood said he works under the direction of the Selectmen.

Mrs. Stockbridge questioned the contract with virtual town hall. Mr. Brenner said all leases are subject to the non-appropriation clause. The committee would like a copy of the contract.

SEWER DEPARTMENT - 521

Warner Knowles was present for his budget.

Mr. Maguire questioned the legal fee account. Mr. Brenner said he expects more bills for December. The expenditures through November are approximately \$1,600,000.

Mrs. Stockbridge if they are still in litigation there is potential that fees would be paid in 2010. She questioned the fiscal responsibility if they know money could be spent. Mr. Brenner said he could not discuss as they are still in litigation.

Mr. Maguire questioned the legal fees and Mr. Brenner said through November it is \$198,346.

Mr. Hawkins questioned the full time line item and said it would be under budget. Mr. Knowles said he had a couple of employees out and the salary was not paid. They are now currently back to work and have to be paid. The part time line is over budget as they were covering the positions with the part time help.

Mr. Hawkins questioned the equipment maintenance. Mr. Knowles said it is getting older and will need to be repaired.

Mr. Hawkins questioned the testing line and if they would be doing more. Mr. Knowles said they are required by the EPA to do the testing and the contracts change every year.

Mr. Maguire said the budget for 2009 is \$1,830,506 of which \$1,692,108 was expended with legal fees of \$198,346. Without the legal fees the budget would be \$1,493,761. He said over a period of 12 months without the legal fees we would be looking at a budget of \$1,629,657. This suggests there would be a large surplus of money remaining. Mr. Knowles commented that three of the years looked at were default budget years and he could not spend per order of the Town Manager and Selectmen. He said it is a large utility and you never know what could happen.

Mrs. Wood said that would be ok with other budgets but with the sewer budget whether it goes over or under it doesn't go to the general fund as it is not part of the bottom line budget.

Mr. Brenner commented that this budget is a little less than the 2009 budget and he thinks they need to look at every line item as there are some needs to some of those line items.

There was general discussion on the line items that are high. Mr. Hawkins said there are 5 lines that account for about \$90K that could be cut.

Mrs. Weare asked Mr. Knowles if he was building the sewer fund up for a reason. As of December 31, 2008 there was \$560,765. Mr. Brenner said likewise there is no money in the water fund.

There was general discussion on the sewer fund and how the fund balance works.

Mr. Maguire commented about the sewer fund balance with the legal fees being paid out of the budget that could potentially be taken from this fund if the budget was over-expended.

MOTION: Richard Maguire Move to reduce this
Second: Paula Wood budget by 5% for a
total of \$1,737,200.

Mr. Hawkins said he agrees with the theory of Mr. Maguire. Mrs. Wood agrees they are putting too much money back into the sewer fund.

Mr. Khan said they may need money to do a project or an EPA order. Mrs. Stockbridge commented that it looks like that right now and that any needs should be budgeted for.

Mrs. Stockbridge moved the question.

Opposed: Aboul B. Khan
Jon Moore

Motion passed.

REVENUES - SEWER DEPARTMENT

The sewer use has decreased as it is based on consumption and it has been dropping. This could be due to the metering program.

MOTION: Cora Stockbridge To move the revenue
Second: Paula Wood in the amount of
Unanimous \$579,162.00.

WARRANT ARTICLES

The first is for a 3/4-ton pickup truck in the amount of \$37,600. Mrs. Stockbridge said the Selectmen have not formally

voted on the articles as it is only a draft to be reviewed by town counsel.

Mr. Knowles said this vehicle has 200,000 miles on it and it plows out the plant and pump stations.

Mr. Brenner said the Selectmen have recommended all the articles during each budget hearing with department heads and is only under legal review for wording. The Selectmen will only be voting on the final warrant. Mr. Khan commented that they had a special meeting to provide this information to the budget committee. The deadline was on Tuesday and everyone worked very hard so he urges the committee to take action. Mr. Hawkins said they asked for the information so they could have it before the public hearing on January 18.

Mrs. Wood said the department heads should make every effort to attend the January 18 meeting. Mr. Brenner explained the statutory requirement of the public hearing.

The second article for the sewer department is a 2WD pickup truck in the amount of \$29,000. This truck is assigned to the sewer superintendent and has just about 100,000 miles.

Warner Knowles left the meeting at 7:40PM.

Mr. Brenner said with the dates for town meeting there is no way around it. Mrs. Wood said they have received the articles with recommendations by the Selectmen in the past. Mrs. Stockbridge commented that it is only collective bargaining and the citizen's petitions that cannot be voted on.

WARRANT ARTICLE 33 - CONSERVATION

Sue Foote was present to discuss this article. She explained why it is on the ballot and what it would allow the town to do. She said it would cover the costs for an easement so there would be no out of pocket expenses for the property owner.

Mr. Eaton commented that this article was not recommended by the Selectmen. Mr. Brenner said it was on Wednesday and that is why it is still in draft form.

Ms. Foote said there is a workshop to explain the benefits to a property owner who would like to give a conservation easement.

Sue Foote left the meeting at 7:56PM.

MOTION: Paula Wood

To take a 10-minute

Second: Gary Pitts
Unanimous

at 7:56PM.

Committee reconvened at 8:03PM.

ARTICLE 28 - GYM FLOOR AT RECREATION CENTER - \$12K

Sandy Beaudoin was present to discuss the article. She explained the article and what it would accomplish.

ARTICLE 29 - GAME ROOM AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING - \$20K

Ms. Beaudoin explained the article and said the units are not working.

ARTICLE 32 - COUNCIL ON AGING - \$2,500

Ms. Beaudoin explained the article. Mrs. Wood asked why this article is for 4-years and not 2 like the others. Ms. Beaudoin said she requested it to be. There was general discussion on what the program is.

Mr. Eaton commented that this article is similar to article 42. Mr. Brenner said the non-profit organization came in last year to request funding. They asked Ms. Beaudoin to work with them but she wasn't comfortable working with them where her program is only for Seabrook residents and their program does other communities.

Sandy Beaudoin left the meeting at 8:17PM.

ARTICLE 15 - POLICE CRUISERS - \$90K

Pat Manthorn was present to discuss the articles.

Mrs. Wood asked if they would be trading in vehicles that weren't marked cruisers. Mr. Brenner said it would be the worst 3 vehicles. Chief Manthorn said one would be the blazer that just sits and a van that cost \$19K last year to repair plus one vehicle.

ARTICLE 16 - FURNISHINGS AT POLICE STATION - \$7K

Chief Manthorn explained what the article would be used for (carpeting, tiles on the 2nd floor and chairs for the dispatch area).

Chief Pat Manthorn left the meeting at 8:26PM.

TOWN HALL - 510

Barry Brenner was present to discuss the budget.

Mrs. Wood questioned line 810 with \$1056 being expended through November 2009. Mr. Brenner explained why it has increased as the position now includes the work at the CAP building. Mrs. Stockbridge questioned how long the employee has been doing work at the CAP building. Mr. Brenner said it is only for maintenance not custodial work.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To move the Town
Second: Jon Moore Manager's figure of
Unanimous \$127,068.00.

REVENUES

Mr. Maguire suggested doing all the revenues at once unless there were questions. The committee agreed and the following accounts were looked at 120, 135, 140, 150, 170, 172, 460, 463, 465, 470 and 510.

Mr. Khan commented on the food & meals tax and said they may not receive this in the future and asked the Town Manager to explain. Mr. Brenner said that is what happened with the shared revenues for 2010. He said there was a slight increase in the highway block grant money.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To move all revenues as
Second: Paula Wood read with the amendment
Unanimous to the highway block
grant.

There was a request for an explanation of the union contracts.

Mr. Brenner explained each contract and what the cost items are for in each. Mr. Maguire asked there were any other changes and Mr. Brenner said no other economic changes but some had language changes.

Mr. Brenner explained the figures for the SFA in 2010 and 2011. Mrs. Stockbridge questioned the call back pay for the ambulance service. Mr. Brenner said it is an incentive system to get the employees to come back to work.

Mr. Hawkins asked if the SSEA contract would take the pay raises out of the hands of the voters. Mr. Brenner explained each union has a 2-tiered system and explained who determines the increase and that the evaluations would be done by the Town Manager for the department head or the department head for assistants and deputies.

Mr. Maguire asked if it was a one-time evaluation. Mr. Brenner said it is an annual evaluation process. There is an appeal process if the employee does not agree.

Mrs. Stockbridge asked if the employee who is at top pay gets the 2% added to their base pay. Mr. Brenner said no but the employee would get a lump sum every year with a favorable evaluation. She asked how this would go before the voters. Mr. Brenner said it would be just like the steps and would be included in the budget.

There was general discussion on the base salary and top pay for the employees.

There was general discussion on the evaluation system and the Town has never had one.

Mr. Brenner spoke about the SEA contract and it not being ratified by the members of the union.

The next meeting is January 18 at 6PM at the Community Center. The committee would like a total number for the budget for this meeting.

MOTION: Paula Wood To adjourn the meeting
Second: Gary Pitts at 9:31PM.
Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 9:31PM.
Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed:

Paula Wood, Chairman

Date: _____