

ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 13, 2011

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: S. Felton, D. Ruell, C. Austin, I. Heidenreich, M. Brown, S. Coleman, G. Dion.

MEMBERS NOT EXCUSED: B. LaRiviere, S. Lake

OTHERS PRESENT: P. Tucker, T. Randall

The meeting came to order at 6:00pm in the Elementary school library.

D. Ruell sent a letter to S. Lake. If S. Lake wanted to dispute the decision of the budget committee, he could come to this meeting and discuss it. He did not show up.

S. Felton spoke with LGC attorney re: monthly figures of the electric dept. We do have the right to ask. We also need the revenues of the electric dept.

We have the right to ask for any format of the budget so that we are able to analyze the budget.

We can legally see the 6 year power purchase contract. It falls upon the right to know law.

S. Coleman stated that she had read in the newspaper about Gilford's contract and suggested that we could possibly talk to them and perhaps take a look at their contract that they have for power purchase.

S. Coleman suggested that we write to the electric commissioners and VSSPA to see the power purchase contract.

We discussed that the electric dept and the water and sewer dept. use the same format for their budgets as the town does, and to have the budget include revenue. The budget columns of the town show previous year budget/monies spent and this years budget/monies spent to date.

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S. Felton made a motion, 2nd by M. Brown that Steve do up a letter to the electric commissioners suggesting:

1. Budget format change to mirror the town version.
2. If the electric dept. can't do a monthly breakdown for the 2012 budget, have them give us the past 2 year breakdown of the power purchase by month.
3. Need to show us a copy of the power purchase agreement for us to properly analyze financials and budget.

At 6:40pm Chief Randall spoke to us about the police dept. He told us that the part time police line has not been used much.

He also told us that Howard Beaudry is coming in to do the administrative assistant position. He'll be coming in 2 to 3 days a week. He will be paid hourly and have no benefits. The monies to pay him will be coming out of the part time police salary line.

Chief Randall told us that there is a spending freeze at the moment, S. Coleman objected to the police dept. not be able to buy uniform clothes.

The postage line is over.

Overall, most budget lines are in good shape.

The police dept. did buy lights for the shot guns, and a shot gun for the SUV.

Chief Randall told us about the problems that the police dept. had with the glocks they used to have. He explained that he spoke with Glock and had Glock change their defective 40 caliber to 9 mm. This was done with no cost to the town.

Chief Randall is working on changing their current cell phone plan.

Three items he would like to see for his capital improvements are:

1. To get new hand held radios.
2. He would like to get a new facility.
3. He would like to get some kind of covering for the police cruisers.

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At 7:05pm P. Tucker spoke to us about the town budgets. We went over executive, election & registration, financial, revaluation of property, legal, personnel administration, ballots, planning & zoning, general government buildings, cemeteries, insurance, advertising & regional, other general government, building inspector, health, animal control, welfare, donations, patriotic purposes, town trustees, conservation commission, debt service, long term bonds, tan notes, capital outlay, warrant articles, grant expenses, default account. Most of the budget lines are looking good.

P. Tucker did say that the town did get new voting booths.

We were done with the town budget at 7:30pm.

Heidenreich made a motion, 2nd by S. Coleman that the school public hearing be held January 11, 2012 at 7:00pm, the town public hearing be held January 12, 2012 at 7:00pm with a backup date of January 13, 2012 at 7:00pm. Meetings to be held at the school gym. All members aye.

Heidenreich made a motion, 2nd by M. Brown to work on the town budgets on November 10, at 6:00pm in school library, November 17, at 6:00pm at the booster clubhouse, December 1 at 6:00 in the school library. Water and Sewer-November 8, at 6:00pm in the school library. Electric-November 15, at 6:00pm in the school library. All members aye.

We discussed that water and sewer will also be asked to give prior 2 year budgets and actuals as we will ask the electric dept. The town already does this format.

D. Ruell will file the vacancy on the budget committee. He will put notices up in the town hall and the post office and also put it in the paper.

Heidenreich made a motion, 2nd by S. Coleman that we will meet with potential candidates on October 27, 2011 at 7:00pm in the school library. All members aye.

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Changes to last meetings minutes: S. Coleman said to change modified accrual to full. S. Felton will check with Jack Harding to see if that is correct. Also, that extra income is or is not reflected in revenue.

S. Coleman suggested that we tape the meetings. The town will let us use their tape recorder. Heidenreich or Jane Felton will pick up the recorder the day of the meeting and return the recorder the following day.

S. Felton is going to request to the electric dept and to the water and sewer dept make hard copies for the members of budget committee along with the emails sent to us.

M. Brown made a motion, 2nd by Heidenreich to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. All members aye.

Christine Austin, Secretary