

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
& PUBLIC HEARINGS MINUTES
January 11, 2018**

Chairman Stewart called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll call: Present: Harold Lamos, Sherrie Downing, Bobbi Hoerter, David Ruell & Eli Badger.

Sandra Coleman present at 5:36 p.m.

Discussion on new Article 11 Public Works 4-wheel drive loader. Craig Moore advised Budget Committee on details: \$189,938 price for used truck. \$10,000 trade in for old loader, \$57,000 from Block Grant, some funds from Street Improvements. Ruell moved, Downing seconds for approval. 7 unanimous yeas.

Budget Committee voted on remaining Town Warrant Articles:

Art. 18. Emergency Management \$2,000. Lamos moved to approve, Downing seconds for approval. 5 yeas, 2 nos.

Art. 3 Water & Sewer Septage \$1.5 million. Ruell moved to approve, Badger seconds. 5 yeas, 2 nos.

Art. 31 Grafton \$6,000. Ruell moves to approve, Stewart seconds. 7 yeas.

Art. 32 Tri County \$3,107 Lamos moves to approve, Hoerter seconds, 7 yeas

Art. 33 Genesis \$3,500 Hoerter moves to approve, Downing seconds, 7 yeas.

Art. 34 CADY \$1,000 Ruell moves to approve, Badger seconds, 7 yeas.

Art. 35 PRLAC \$400 Hoerter moves to approve, Lamos seconds, 7 yeas.

Art. 36 Voices \$3,000 Hoerter moves to approve, Lamos seconds, 7 yeas.

Art. 37 150th \$15,000 Hoerter moves to approve, Ruell seconds, 7 yeas.

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Chairman Stewart opens Public Hearing for the Ashland School Budget Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call vote. All Budget Committee Members present.

School Board Chairman Dion addressed the capital budget plan, a 10 year outlook of the school's needs. Chairman Stewart reviewed the Ashland School District's Budget Overview. An additional position of Para-Educator (substitute teacher) was added.

Budget Committee voted on Ashland School Warrant Articles:

Art. 4. Hoerter moved for approval of \$3,401,945 bottom line, Ruell seconds, 7 yeas.

Chairman Stewart closes Ashland School Public Hearing at 6:27 p.m.

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Chairman Stewart opens Public Hearing for the Town Budget at 6:31 p.m.

Discussion on Street Lighting of \$42,000 and reasons why it should be \$56,000.

Art. 23 Rescind Municipal Budget Committee. Hoerter moved not to recommend, Stewart seconds. 5 yeas, 2 abstain.

Art. 26 Default Budget Determination. Downing moves to recommend, Stewart seconds, 4 yeas, 3 nos.

Hoerter moves to recommend \$3,401,945 budget, Coleman seconds. 7 yeas.

Art. 2. Wages/Board Members, 7 yeas.

Art. 3 Cost Items, 7 yeas,

Art. 4 Special Meeting, Hoerter moves to recommend, Ruell seconds, 7 yeas.

Art. 6. \$50,000 Facilities Maintenance. Ruell moves to approve, Badger seconds, 5 yeas, 2 nos.

Art. 7. \$35,000 Special Ed, Ruell moves to approve, Badger seconds, 6 yeas, 1 no.

Estimated Revenues. Ruell moves to approve \$839,893, Coleman seconds, 7 yeas.

Electric Dept. line 810 Lighting. Ruell moves to approve \$56,000, Badger seconds. 3 yeas, 4 nos.

Ruell moves to approve \$3,125,250 Electric bottom line, Hoerter seconds, 6 yeas, 1 no.

Water Dept. Ruell moves Line 6230 Contract Operations to \$114,000, Badger seconds. 3 yeas, 4 nos. Discussion with input from Water & Sewer Commissioner Cilley regarding the Water Department needing the full \$114,000 to fully operate. Chairman Stewart informed the public the Water & Sewer Department Chairman was contacted several times to appear before the Budget Committee. This Department was the only department to choose not to appear before the Budget Committee. Cilley mentioned he believed Budget Committee was to give written questions to the department and they would respond. Hoerter stated it was her belief Budget Committee was never given this particular information; Stewart confirmed Hoerter's view on this.

Sewer Dept. Hoerter moved for approval of \$422,401 bottom line, Downing seconds, 5 yeas, 2 nos.

Town Revenues: Stewart moved to approve \$823,749, Hoerter seconds, 5 yeas, 2 nos.

Entire Town Budget: Lamos moves to approve \$2,783,337, Hoerter seconds. 6 yeas, 1 no.

Chairman Stewart stated for public no Electric nor Water & Sewer Budgets were available from these departments for tonight's Public Hearing. Stewart was assured by Coleman the Electric Department would have copies of their budget for the Deliberative Session. The Water & Sewer Department's Commissioner Cilley stated their department would not redo their budget.

Ruell states the Budget Committee now needed to revote on every Town Warrant Article. Chairman Stewart, Hoerter and Downing all agreed if no changes were made to the Warrant Articles we should not have to revote.

Coleman suggested we check on this matter and if we have to revote, the Budget Committee will reconvene.

Chairman Stewart adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Hoerter, Budget Committee Member