

Budget Committee Minutes

1/5/2013

Present: Steven Felton, David Ruell, David Toth, Ingrid Heidenreich, Sandra Coleman, Mark Scarano, Miriam Brown

Absent/late: Christine Austin, Philip Preston, (Mardean Badger)

Other: Paul Branscombe, Allan Cilley, Alice Staples

Meeting called to order at 11:05 Held at the Ashland Historic School

**Financial:** -there were questions about the new telephone and savings on the new system. Branscombe was not sure how much those would be.

Felton moved Scarano seconded to reduce the phone line from \$5,000 to \$4,500.

Vote was 7-0

Scarano moved Toth seconded to reduce the Town Administrators Expense line from \$1,000 to \$750.

Vote was 7-0

Heidenreich moved Scarano seconded to reduce postage from \$3,500 to \$3,000.

Vote was 7-0

Scarano moved Ruell seconded to move a bottom line of \$270,629 (a reduction of \$1,250)

Vote was 7-0

Heidenreich moved Scarano seconded moved a default budget of \$273,590

Vote was 7-0

**Planning/Zoning:**

**Planning**

Scarano moved Heidenreich seconded to reduce legal from \$1,500 to \$1,000.

Vote was 7-0

( Preston arrives-11:36)

Planning cont

Scarano moved Heidenreich seconded to reduce advertising from \$500 to \$300

Vote was 7-1

Heidenreich moved Brown seconded to reduce postage from \$900 to \$450.

Vote was 6-2

**Zoning:**

Heidenreich moved Coleman seconded to reduce postage from \$250 to \$150

Vote was 6-2

Heidereich moved Toth seconded to move a bottom of \$3,304 ( a reduction of \$1,250)

Vote was 6-2

Heidereich moved Scarano seconded a default budget of \$4,554

Vote was 8-0

**General Government:**

Felton moved Heidenreich seconded to reduce general expense from \$3,750 to \$2,000

Vote was 7-1

Scarano moved Heidenreich seconded to reduce electricity from \$7,000-\$6,500

Vote was 6-2

Felton moved Brown seconded to reduce general repair from \$8,000 to \$7,000

Vote was 6-2

Scarano moved Heidenreich seconded to reduce matching grants from \$10,000 to 0

Vote as 3-5

Felton moved Brown seconded to reduce matching grants from \$10,000 to \$3,000

Vote was 6-2

**General Govt. cont**

Discussion ensued re: \$40,000 to go into the general fund for the energy audit needs at the Town Hall. This money is earmarked for the replacement of lights and windows.

Heidereich moved Scarano seconded to reduce office supplies from \$4,400 to \$4,000

Vote was 6-2

Heidenreich moved Toth seconded to move a bottom line of \$42,118 ( a reduction of \$10,650)

Vote was 7-1

Scarano moved Heidenreich seconded to move a default budget of \$41,768

Vote was 8-0

**Detail:**

Heidenreich moved Coleman seconded to moved a bottom line & default of \$3,000 ( no change)

Vote was 8-0

**Building Inspector:**

Brown moved Felton seconded a bottom line of \$9,807 ( no change)

Vote was 8-0

Scarano moved Heidenreich seconded a default budget of \$9,807

Vote was 8-0

**Emergency Management:**

Heidenreich moved Felton seconded to reduce the bottom line from \$2,000 to \$1,000

Vote was 6-2

Scarano moved Heidenreich seconded a bottom line of \$1,000 ( a reduction of \$1,000)

Vote was 6-2

Scarano moved Heidenreich seconded a default budget of \$2,001

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Vote was 8-0

**Animal Control:**

Heidenreich moved Coleman seconded a bottom line of \$ 3,700 ( no change)

Vote was 8-0

Heidenreich moved Felton seconded a default budget of \$3,400

Vote was 8-0

**Welfare:**

Heidenreich moved Coleman seconded to move a default budget of \$80,000

Vote was 8-0

**Library:** Staples stated that cleaning is a new line as are on-line catalogue and downloadable books.

Ruell stated that library employees are not Town employees. The existing pay scale is not equitable. Scarano said the pay scale should be increased over three years to be on par with Town employees. Staples said there was no pay scale goal but that it would be nice to be in line with other town libraries. Ours are much lower. Heidenreich noted this is the third year the library employees have had raises. Scarano suggested to Staples to have a plan in place of upcoming pay raises so the committee would know what's coming and to have reasoning behind the increases.

Brown moved Felton seconded a bottom line of \$59,555

Vote was 7-1

Scarano moved Preston seconded a default budget of \$58,505

Vote was 8-0

**Patriotic Purposes:** There was some discussion about the Memorial Day supplies line. What are the supplies needed as there is no longer a parade.

Scarano moved Brown seconded a bottom line of \$10,690 ( no change)

Vote was 8-0

Scarano moved Brown seconded a default budget of \$10, 690

Vote was 8-0

**Town Trustees:** Felton stated that the Trustees salary line should not have been reduced to zero at a previous meeting. Heidenreich stated that her position stands ( no salary/stipends for Boards or Committees in such a lean year). Scarano said this is a managerial group and that they should have a stipend. Coleman said that she thought she had good reason to zero the line, but now feels the Trustees should have the salary line reinstated.

Heidenreich asked why \$753 has been spent this year? Ruell said that that extra \$153 has been “bouncing around”, that it ended up in the Trustees account and that he returned it, via check, to the Town.

Scarano moved Toth seconded to increase ( restore) the salary line to \$600.

Vote was 7-1

Scarano moved Ruell seconded to move a bottom line & default budget of \$646.

Vote was 7-1

**Conservation Commission:**

Brown moved Preston seconded a bottom line of \$1,000

Vote was 7-1

Brown moved Preston seconded a default budget of \$1,000

Vote 7-1

Heidenreich noted that total cuts thus are \$122,868

**Warrant Articles:** There was discussion on Articles G- a fee of \$5.00 to collected with vehicle registrations and H- a capital reserve to be set up to hold those funds.

*Article B.*-\$145,700 to purchase a 4x drive loader. Five year lease. \$29, 133 for the first year payment.

Scarano moved Heidenreich seconded to recommend the article.

Vote was 6-2

*Article C.* \$1,500 for the Town clock. A non-capital reserve fund.

Heidenreich moved Scarano seconded to NOT recommend the article.

Vote was 6-1-1

Warrant Articles cont.

*Article D.* \$125,000 for road improvements capital reserve fund.

Scarano moved Toth seconded to recommend

Vote was 8-0

*Article G.* To authorize the collection of a \$5.00 fee on car registrations, to start on or after May 1. There will be a Town hearing on this issue. Coleman wanted to know where the \$2.50 of the current \$3.00 fee goes-where in the revenues is it? Heidenreich wanted to know why the fee was limited to vehicles.

No vote taken

*Article I.* \$25,000 Capital Reserve Fund for Fire Dept. vehicles.

Scarano moved Heidenreich seconded to recommend the article.

Vote was 8-0

*Article J.* \$25,000 Capital reserve Fund for Police Dept. vehicles.

Scarano moved Brown seconded to recommend the article

Vote was 5-3

Felton wanted to know what parts of the budget the committee wanted to revisit. There are \$275,633 in Warrant Articles. This does not include the \$40,000 energy audit monies. There are \$122,868 in cuts. It is the consensus of the Committee to NOT add the \$40,000 to this years' budget.

**Transfer Station:** Heidenreich wants to cut one day (4 hours-8 man hours) of the dump being open. Branscombe says this would be savings of just over \$4,870.

Heidenreich moved Coleman seconded to reduce the salary line to \$21,003.

Vote was 6-2

Heidenreich moved Toth seconded to move a bottom of \$131,532 ( a further reduction of \$5,242)

Vote was 6-2

**Police:**

Heidenreich moved Toth seconded to reduce the matching grants line from \$4,500 to \$1,500.

Vote was 6-1-1

Police cont.

Scarano wants to look at the salary line. Coleman states that there should not be Lt. Just a Chief, Sgt and Patrolmen. Too many higher ups.

Much discussion ensued upon the make- up of the department and how to go about reducing the salary line, if at all. There is a new hire ( Patrolman) ready to come to work soon.

Scarano moved Heidenreich seconded to reduce the salary line from\$255,843 to \$235,000.

Vote was 6-2

Felton moved Heidenreich seconded to move a bottom line of \$527,768( a reduction of \$46,741 from last year)

Vote was 6-2

Coleman moved Toth seconded a default budget of \$561,076

Vote was 8-0

Coleman wanted to know if the insurance line should be different.

Total budget \$2,633,278

Total budget with Warrant Articles \$2,938,911

### **Park and Recreation**

Heidenreich moved Ruell seconded a default budget of \$96,808

Vote was 7-1

P&R **Revenues**-move vacation program, campground and After School Program to zero.

Heidenreich moved Felton seconded to reduce the revenues line to \$13,065

Vote was 6-2

The School Board Budget public hearing is Wed. January 9 in the school cafeteria. Meet at 6:00pm for review. Hearing starts at 6:30. Also, meet afterward.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at 3:35 it was

Moved by Brown seconded by Heidenreich to adjourn.

Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted

Miriam Brown

Secretary Pro-tem