

**Ashland Budget Committee
Draft Minutes
July 10, 2014**

David Ruell called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Ashland Fire Station meeting room.

Budget Committee Members Present (9 voting]

<i>David Ruell</i>	<i>Harold Lamos</i>	<i>Mark Scarano</i>
<i>Renee Liebert</i>	<i>David Toth</i>	<i>Mardean Badger</i>
<i>Normand DeWolfe</i>	<i>Christine Cilley</i>	<i>Sandra Coleman (late w/excuse)</i>

8 votes to start then 9 with Sandra's arrival

Also present: *Glen Dion, School Board Alternate (non-voting)*

Absent : *Steve Felton, Selectboard Alternate(non voting)*

The purpose of the meeting was to begin mid- year reviews with the Library, Water & Sewer Dept. and the Electric Dept. and to try to clear up past non approved Budget Committee minutes

LIBRARY-Represented by David Ruell, Alice Staples and Sara Weinberg

EXPENDITURES:

David R presented the financials.2 sheets

Other column is other source of money.

Books other Meredith Village donates \$500 every year for Books of the Month.

Cleaning was for 5 months

Equipment-purchased a router with town appropriations money and bought 2 Kindles with donation money, loaded with adult material, one by the Friends of the Library loaded with children's materials..

PAC is not paid for until the end of the year.

Some of the postage and supply expenses due to the material cost and mailing for the warrant article for the old school building.

BANK BALANCES:

The only new account is the building fund

For computer in case a new one is needed

Copy Fee-income from copy machine by law in separate account.

Lost Books-Law that this income must be in separate account.

NEW BUILDING

Dave T. asked where they with new building. Alice S responded that they are looking at grants, fund raising, met with Tri CAP, and realtor. Sara W. stated that they are having fund raising concert on 7/17.

Alice S stated they need to find someone with lots of energy. She stated that Tri County CAP is not budging on their price for the old school building.

*Harold L asked if there were any other buildings suitable for a Library. The Mill buildings were brought up but too large and costly to make work. Mardean B stated that they will be looking for grants and there are lots of issues with the mill buildings Alice S stated that the Bricker property is for sale for 68K. It is an opportunity for additional space, parking etc. Talked a little bit how Campton is putting away \$30k per year for future new library. Should we do something similar? Maybe smaller amounts for new Ashland libraryus ? They are looking at any possibilities
Library review concluded.*

MINUTES

Motion by Dave T to approve minutes of 5 22 14 with correction to change resign to re-sign. Norm D seconded. Vote 6 Yes 2 Abstain

Motion by Mardean B to approve minutes of 2 1 14. Seconded by Chris C. Vote 3 Yes 5 Abstains (1 voting member not present at that meeting and 4 were not voting members of BC at that meeting). Renee L asked if she should vote. It was agreed that she and Norm D should NOT even though they were there as they were alternates. (Sandra C arrived just after this vote.)

Discussion evolved around the massive number of minutes that were never approved by last year's Budget Committee. Suggested Motion to acknowledge minutes taken and on record for the following dates:

1/10/13, 1/14/13, 10/30/13, 11/21/13, 12/11/13, 1/9/14, and 1/16/14. Moved by Mardean B Seconded by Mark S. Mardean purposely skipped 11/7, 12/28 and 12/30. Vote 5 Yes 4 Abstain

Dave R stated that 3 dates still not approved due to no record of minutes 11/7/13, 12/28/13 and 12/30/13. Chris C was asked if she remembered 11/7. She will look. Mark S confirmed meetings for 12/28 and 12/30 and stated that Sandra C may have taken minutes. She said she would check her recorder.

Dave R stated that we needed to be timely with producing our BC minutes.

Dave R brought up about the "Basic Laws of Budgeting " handbook .Each member should have a copy, but they are expensive. They are handed out free to attendees of the NHMA seminars on Budgeting. Mardean stated for the record that it is illegal to e-mail or copy this copyrighted book. Somehow, everyone will get a copy new or old....

Dave R asked if W & S were ready to begin. They were.

WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT Started at 6:15 PM Represented by Eli Badger, Alan Cilley and John Hughes

Eli had presented committee with mid year review packet. Eli stated that the goal was to include all they wanted to do, but they must use default budget.

Looked at documents. Yellow lines payroll and retirement due to Kay's retirement.

Eli showed income graph, Septage receiving, Capital Reserve Funds and Capital projects.

Mark S questioned why one report said 238K and the other stated 242k for Septage receiving for 2013. It was confirmed that 238K is amount from audit. Mark S also questioned projection difference of 236K and 214K for 2014. It was stated that 214K more realistic. There was discussion about how projections were made based upon current trends. Eli stated he was tighter with projections.

Dave R asked about Receiving Station. Alan C stated that the project has stalled a bit .He discussed that they are waiting for DES approval. If granted, they will pursue. They are still pondering whether to pursue warrant article for bond or can they try to build the receiving station themselves without going to the voters. Dave R asked about calling a special meeting. Eli plans are to put 400K into it this year and 400K next year. This will allow W & S to look more financially ready to voters. Mark S asked what is the cost projection now. Alan stated 865K, but he feels it could be done for less. The project would have to be paid for up front. So the question will be to go to the voters in March 2015 or pay themselves. They also need to go to the BOS to help to receive grant money. If they do go to the voters, it would be for a short term with reimbursement from grants to repay .

Glen D had questions about movement of funds and Capital Reserve and Norm D questioned perceptions based on their 2014 capital projects proposal.

Dave R asked about possible income increases.

Eli commented that they could increase the number of haulers by 1 or 2 and improve revenue. Alan commented that the number of haulers in our 30 to 40 mile radius was 22-25. He stated that our plant was faster and less expensive. He further stated that we are dealing with the same haulers as we were in 2004

Harold L asked if there opportunities with port a potty haulers. Alan responded that they really hadn't looked into that. Alan did bring up the possibility of adding Plymouth and Holderness on line in the future for added revenue.

Dave R asked about the 100K for meters. John H response was that was for all the meters for their ratepayers but did not including labor. Dave R asked when the Feds were requiring them to update all meter. It was suppose to be 2015, but Alan & Eli felt that W & S would not be held to that, maybe 2016. Dave R asked about the 50K for Riverside. They are replacing sewer pipes in front of Dion's property as well as 3 others on Riverside to correct current and future potential issues.. Brought up roof replacement. It was stated that it is in similar condition to the fire station before it was repaired.

Dave T asked about status of income and expense. He stated that it seemed that water is still not breaking even. Dave R asked about when are they going to break even in water. Alan-Water use is down. Last year increase was due to rate increase. Eli- tough decisions ahead. Harold L asked about opportunities with New Hampton. Not really. Alan discussed rate decreases and increases over the last 14 years. W & S discussion ended.

ELECTRIC- Represented by Lee Nichols

Dave R asked "how are you doing? Lee N-We are not doing bad. Electric is at about 47% of budget at 6 months, so running where should be at this time.

Dave R asked about the negative number under misc. user charges and fees. Lee stated it was because of double payment. Electric is still working this out.

Lee a few lines over in expenses, but not by much

Lee did not know why Contractor Expense was so high.??

Lee did state that capital reserve was now over 200K

Dave R asked about capital reserve \$34,987. Lee said it was for vehicle radios..

Dave R asked about line 353.1-Dist.Pole. Lee this was for pole for New Hampton that will be reimbursed. Dave R asked about trend of underground power in subdivisions. Lee responded yes. All underground is the responsibility of owner or developer.

New Billing Program was discussed. Chris C asked why after 3 years why is it not already in effect She asked when is it going to happen? Lee hoped by end of year.

Dave T asked about total cost of program. Lee didn't know. He will get back to BC.

He was sure that it wouldn't be more than 25K. Other companies would have been over 100K. He stated that there have been some payments.

Lee talked about new electrical business with Freudenberg and Dollar General.

No other question Electric discussion ended.

Next meeting set for 7/17 at 5:30 at fire station with review for Administration, Finance and Public Works.

Motion to adjourn at 7:24 by Mark S, seconded by Chris C. all in favor.

Minutes by Norm DeWolfe