

Budget Committee
November 8th, 2017
7:00PM
Town Office/Police Station Conference Room
Approved: November 15th, 2017

Budget Committee Members: Judy Brotman, Chair, Susan J. MacKenzie, Erik Colberg, Wiles McClave, Richard Jones, Charles Ragan, Scott May, Elizabeth Glenshaw and Eric Furstenberg.
Excused: Greg Lange & Cybele Merrick

Select Board members Charles Smith & Bradford Keith. Administrative Assistant Dina Cutting.

Community members: David and Barbara Roby.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chair Brotman.

1. The minutes for the following meetings were reviewed:
 - Jones moved to approve the minutes of October 4th, 2017. Seconded by Glenshaw. Voted unanimously in favor.
2. Brotman noted the Budget Committee meeting of December 13th, 2017 will be moved to 7:30PM to accommodate a holiday concert at the school.
3. The Budget Committee reviewed the proposed 2018 budget:
 - a. Health benefit costs went down for the Town employees.
 - b. The Select Board confirmed a 2% wage increase for all employees, with some larger merit increases and other targeted increases aimed at bringing individual employees up to a competitive wage, in order to retain critical employees.
 - c. The highway budget was reviewed.
 - d. Warrant articles for the Baker Hill # 1 and Grant Brook projects will be coming at a future meeting.
 - e. Fire truck and loader replacements were reviewed.
 - f. Emergency Highway Repair funds were discussed.
 - g. There are 10 projects left to consider from the July storm. Mackenzie reviewed FEMA funding and noted the repair of these roads will need to be addressed over the coming years.
 - h. Alternative avenues of funding were discussed, such as traditional loans and bonds.
 - i. Discussed the possibility of cost savings if all the projects were done at one time and funded together.
 - j. Mackenzie reviewed the plan to form a committee to look at the Transfer Station and Fire Station needs.
 - k. The budget committee felt these projects need to be prioritized and then the total cost considered before a plan of attack can be made.
 - l. Culvert inventory-The funding for this inventorying work will be considered in a separate warrant article, with a 50% grant for the \$20,000 project.
 - m. Calcium chloride, winter material and contracted services were all reviewed for the highway department budget.

4. Public Comment: Barbara Roby inquired about the schedule for the Lyme Center Academy repairs. David Roby suggested the Town plan for 500 year flood events (not the current 100 year storm event). He also expressed his belief that dead end roads are good.
5. It was noted at this time the highway budget was not a reflection of a normal year. All the additional road repairs from the July storm have not been taken out of the current highway budget. In addition, highway personnel were not doing regular road repairs and maintenance because they were addressing storm damage.
6. At 8:07 PM Ms. Glenshaw moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Voted unanimously in favor.

Sincerely,

Dina Cutting