

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

February 6, 2008

Present:

Budget Committee - John Henne, Bob Corrigan, Mike Brosnan, Jackie Corrigan, Stan Judge

Selectpersons - Lucy Evans

Public - John Gralenski, Cynthia Gralenski, John Carpenter

John Henne opened the meeting at 7:03 PM. He opened the public hearing on the town budget at 7:04 PM.

Cynthia Gralenski asked about the increase in the budget for town buildings. Jo explained that it was to cover the increased cost of fuel oil.

John Gralenski asked why the budget was so low. Jo explained that the Selectpersons have strived to keep costs down.

Cynthia Gralenski questioned the Fire Department budget. Jo and Stan explained some of the items, including the pump repair, dues and fuel. Jo explained that the Fire Department's focus is accidents - traffic control, clean up, etc. It was noted that some money was reimbursed to Shelburne from FEMA when they helped Gilead out during their July storm emergency. These reimbursements do not show against their budget.

John Gralenski asked when the Highway Department is getting a new truck. Jo responded that the purchase is planned in 2 years. She also explained some of the expenses incurred recently on the plow truck.

John Carpenter asked if the Selectmen have evaluated the cost of using a dumpster service instead of maintaining a garbage truck. Stan replied that Ken has looked into it and he feels that continuing using the garbage truck for another year or two would be more cost effective. Stan said that the Selectmen have asked for more information. John Carpenter said that he feels the town should look into using a dumpster service before purchasing a new truck.

Cynthia stated that she wishes Ken would get someone to do some of the repairs on the plow truck. She said that she feels he should not be doing all these repairs.

Cynthia asked if any roads will be paved in 2008. Jo explained that work is planned on the cul-de-sac on Sunrise Drive and the beginning of Losier Road.

John Carpenter asked if expenses related to each vehicle are tracked. Jo answered that they are not.

Cynthia asked how much is in the Heavy High CR. Jo said with the \$30,000 proposed for the 2008 budget there will be about \$92,000.

It was explained that the vehicle maintenance fund is for repairs to all town vehicles. It is proposed to put \$5,000 into this fund in 2008. Cynthia Gralenski expressed concern about the fact that the Fire Department depleted the fund.

Discussion followed on the tax rate which is projected to be up this year.

Robert Corrigan made a motion to approve articles 4 - 18 of the proposed warrant which constitute the budget as presented by the Selectmen for a total of \$414,485. Mike Brosnan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The budget forms were signed by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Jackie Corrigan, recording secretary - the last person in!!!