

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
Budget Committee
16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275

Minutes Public Hearing on January 14, 2010

Dave Eaton, Chairman of the Budget Committee, opened the meeting at 6:02 PM.

Present at the meeting: Penny Touchette, Sandy McKenney, Don Chaput, Mike Frascinella, Kate Walker, Fern Bissonnette, Jerry McKenney Carl Caporale, Lisa Komm, Roger Lefleur and Sted Holton.

Dave introduced the budget committee members to the public that were present. He then stated positions will be open for election and be sure to sign up. Dave then asked Tom Ircyzk from the School Board to conduct his presentation regarding the School Budget.

Tom presented the School Board Budget thru a PowerPoint presentation.

- Read and discussed Warrant Article #1 regarding the bottom line of the 2010-2011 school budget.
- Reviewed the increases and decreases, SAU costs, and bus expenses.
- Read and discussed Warrant Article #2 regarding adding \$20,000.00 to the building maintenance and repair fund. This warrant article does not affect the tax rate.
- Read and discussed Warrant Article #3 regarding signing into a 3-year collective bargaining contract for the non-certified and paraprofessional teachers.
- This contract includes a 2.5% salary increase each year.

There were no questions from the audience.

Dave explained the 2010 budget is a gross budget and that means that all revenue and expenses are shown. The bottom line is higher however; this includes the Sewer Department budget and a budget for Capital Outlay. The Sewer Department budget is offset by the sewer user rates and the Capital Outlay budget is grant funds to be received. Dave read each warrant article then asked the public for any questions.

Article #4-Town Budget: Dave stated that he will return to this warrant article at the end.

Article #5-Raise \$10,000.00 for the Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

- Why does money need to be put into this account?
 - Chris Roy, Road Agent, explained this reserve fund is for purchase of future equipment.

- Are there any vehicles that can be sold?
 - Chris explained at this time no. There is one plow that is for highway use that does sit unless it is needed. When replacing a piece of equipment the choice of trading in or auction is looked at.

Article #6-Raise \$10,000.00 for the Highway Garage Capital Reserve Fund.

- What is the current balance in the account?
 - Sandy replied approximately \$78,000.00.
- What is the purpose of this account?
 - Chris explained the funds will be used to replace the existing Highway Department facility.

Article #7-Raise \$10,000.00 for the Landfill Closure Expendable Trust Fund.

- What is this fund for?
 - This is for the closing of the Landfill which has to be closed with proper ventilation and will be very costly. The state is requiring the town to close the landfill.
- Is there a time table for when it has to be closed?
 - NH Department of Environmental Services has requested in be complete by 2014.

Article #8-Enter into a lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$142,000.00 for a 2010 six-wheeled dump truck.

- Does this warrant article conflict with Article #5?
 - The funds requested in Article #5 can not be used for a lease agreement. The funds can only be used for a complete purchase.

Article #9-Raise \$2,500.00 for the Town Safety Expendable Trust Fund.

- No questions.

Article #10-Raise \$2,500.00 for the Police Computer Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

- What is the current balance of account?
 - Sandy stated the approximate balance is \$4,700.00.
- What is this fund for?
 - Police Chief Mulholland stated the funds will be used to replace the main server at the police station.

Article #11-Raise \$2,500.00 for the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund.

- No questions.

Article #12-Raise \$6,000.00 for the Police Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

- No questions.

Article #13-Raise \$10,000.00 for the Special Revenue D.A.R.E fund.

- No questions.

Article #14-Raise \$2,500.00 for the Recreation Capital Reserve Fund.

- No questions.

Article #15-Raise \$10,000.00 for the Fire Department Safety Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

- No questions.

Article #16-Raise \$50,000.00 for the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

- Why was \$50,000.00 chosen for an amount?

- Fire Chief Hart explained it should be \$150,000.00 however; there currently are no funds in this account. This account is used to replace fire vehicles. Currently there is only 1 vehicle that is under 20 years old.
- Was this account used to purchase the latest truck?
 - The ladder truck did get purchased from this account.

Article #17-Raise \$20,000.00 for the Public Safety Facilities Capital Reserve Fund.

- No questions.

Article #18-Raise \$300,000.00 to purchase a tanker truck. Of the \$300,000.00 only \$15,000.00 would be raised by taxes with the contingencies of receiving the \$285,000.00 in grant funds.

- Will the purchase request go out to public bid?
 - The request will require a 3-bid minimum.
- If the \$50,000.00 requested in Warrant Article 16 is approved, can that money be used for this purchase?
 - No.

Article 19-Raise \$275,000.00 to purchase a Pumper Fire Truck.

- Are there any grant funds to help offset this purchase?
 - No. The town can only apply for 1 grant at a time.
 - Fire Chief Hart stated he is looking into reducing the number of 1,500 gallon pumper trucks from 4 to 3.
 - Looking into getting a smaller vehicle that can be used a first response when needed.
- What does the wording "raise and appropriate" mean?
 - Roger Lefleur stated that it means to raise the funds thru taxation then spend the funds accordingly.
- What happens to the old equipment?
 - Some of the vehicles are so old that they might get sold to collectors.
- If the equipment is sold, where do the funds go?
 - The funds will get returned to the general fund to help offset the taxes.
- Why purchase a vehicle instead of leasing one?
 - Cost. It is more cost effective to purchase then to pay interest over years in a lease agreement

Article #20-Raise \$150,000.00 to complete renovations to the second floor of the fire station, with the contingency of applying and receiving the full \$150,000.00 in grant funds.

- What would the second floor be used for?
 - The EOM office, a physical fitness room, a day room for the firefighters, and adding a second emergency exit.

Article #21-Change the purpose of the Town Hall Roof Capital Reserve Fund to the Town Hall Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund.

- No questions.

Dave went back to Article #4. Reviewed the 2009 default amounts, the 2010 recommended amounts, along with the increases and decrease.

- No questions.

Andrea Martel gave a brief overview of the sewer budget.

- The budget increased 4.2% from 2009. This increase is due to new regulations for the renewal of the permit.
- Projects to be completed in 2010 are the Bio-Mag process, roof repairs, improve odor control, fence repairs and paving of the access road to the rear of the plant. Septage revenue is paying for 75% of the costs.
- Sewer rate will increase from \$6.83 to \$7.05.
- Explained the overall budget has 3 sources of revenue: Allenstown Sewer Fees, Pembroke fees (which is based on monthly flow allocation) and Septage revenue.

Sandy made a motion to recess until the deliberative session which will be on January 30, 2010, seconded by Roger. Meeting recessed at 7:15 PM.