

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – October 29, 2019
Lincoln Town Hall, Lincoln, NH
(to be approved)

ATTENDING: Chairman Mike Simons, Vice-Chairman Herb Gardner, Jack Daly, Cindy Lloyd, Tracey Brumlik, Susan Chenard, Jim Spanos, Paul Beaudin, Ray D’Amante, Kelsee Beaudin
Absent: Dennis Ducharme (excused), Beverly Hall (excused), Jayne Ludwig(excused)

Call to order: 5:31 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

February 12th minutes reviewed

Motion to approve: Herb Second: Cindy

Discussion: Jim brings up that the minutes say approved at the top already. Tracey made a mistake with that. Paul brings up that OJ is mentioned as speaking, but is not listed as attending at the top. Tracey says that she didn’t know she was to list all audience members and at the time didn’t know all audience members. Mike says that we should have a sign in for audience members, but we don’t. Tracey also mentions that she put public hearing on the same minutes sandwiched between the budget minutes.

Motion carries: For: 9 Opposed: 0 Abstain: Ray D’Amante

September 24 minutes reviewed

Motion to approve as amended: Herb Second: Cindy

Discussion: Kelsee makes a correction to line 94 that she didn’t say that statement and we agree to remove sentence. Mike says that corrections need to be made at meeting so that we can discuss changes so everyone agrees. Mike asks if everyone agree with January 16 being the joint meeting with N. Woodstock. All agree.

Motion carries: unanimously

FINALIZE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2020 BUDGET:

List of meeting dates provided to Mike and Tracey will get a copy to other members.

October 29

- Come with questions for departments
- ¾ year review

December 3 ... go over answers to questions from October 29

December 10 ... Start going over easier department budgets

Mike suggests making a list is of the “easier” budgets that committee can go over on December 10. Committee members suggest the following: Cemetary, Library, Patriotic Purposes, Tax Collector, Street Lights, Welfare

43 **Compilation of Questions to Administration:**

44 Not everyone had their ¾ year statements of payments with them so Paul suggests copies
45 be supplied at meetings. Mike states that 13 copies of the minutes, agenda and other
46 pertinent documents depending on the agenda, like expense statements and budget, will
47 be brought to each meeting. Tracey will make these copies. These questions will be
48 compiled with questions from the last meeting.
49

- 50 1. Jack asks, why are legal expenses so much over budget? Budgeted \$160,000
51 Expended \$197,176. Ray asks if there is a procedure for requesting legal services?
52 Does it have to be approved by the Town Manager? Paul says that Town Manager
53 and Board of Selectman approve since the details are non-public, they know about
54 the cases. Jim says Town Planner. Cindy asks what is the break-down of how much
55 of the legal expenses are used in meetings and how much are used in law suits and
56 cases? Paul asks that we get a similar list like we did last year of what cases were
57 handled in the year. Jack asks if the decision to use a lawyer goes from the
58 selectmen representative on that committee to the selectmen? Mike says the
59 selectmen's representative votes the way the selectmen does at the select board.
60 Jim says they check with Butch if it's a complicated application. Paul says it would be
61 good to get a break down as to how much is used for each, like planning board, or
62 personnel cases etc.
- 63 2. Paul asks where funds came from to hire two new people this year? One was at
64 public works and one at water department. They were not requested in last year's
65 budget.
- 66 3. Paul asked that more thought go into how money is spent in regards to
67 emergencies. Either having departments look at their own upcoming needs
68 (buildings, equipment etc) and plan accordingly or hire someone to look at all the
69 upcoming needs so that something like the \$100,000 emergency with lighting at the
70 Kanc Ski Slope doesn't happen again. It puts a strain on the CIP and money has to
71 come from other projects for these emergencies. Paul gives two other examples of
72 the air conditioning units in town hall and the \$500,000 dispatch upgrade that they
73 needed right away. Jack says that there is expected life of equipment so they should
74 be preparing based on that information. Ray says there are emergencies, but what is
75 the procedure for approving those? Paul says when the Kanc brought the issue of
76 the lights to the CIP committee, it was a safety concern, but there was no
77 accountability as to why it become an emergency all of a sudden. Someone in town
78 should be looking ahead at upcoming needs and planning accordingly. Mike says it's
79 usually your department head. Jim asks if the light issue came up because someone
80 wasn't taking care of them or were they at the end of their service life? Paul says
81 some lights were out and when they started checking on them they realized some
82 screws on the aluminum poles weren't tight enough and some of the wooden poles
83 were rotten and some weren't buried far enough and now they need LED upgrades.
84 For instance, at public works they look at the life expectancy of their vehicles and

85 they budget what vehicles need to be replaced based on that. We should have
86 replacement parts waiting, like at the lagoons. Should the selectmen look at how the
87 department heads look at these things? Jack says it's preventative maintenance.
88 Paul says at Loon they inventory everything and plan for upcoming needs. There are
89 emergencies that come up, but it seems with monitoring \$100,000 at the Kanc
90 shouldn't be one of them. We could have put the money toward something else.
91 Mike wants to know what is the procedure when those things come up at CIP? Paul
92 says himself, OJ, Mark, Butch, Carole are all on the CIP. The department heads come
93 in and state their case and those things are voted on. They ok'd the emergency at
94 the Kanc because it was a safety issue and otherwise kids couldn't ski. Paul says that
95 the dispatch is \$500,000 and it was only mentioned last year, when we could have
96 planned more for it if it had been mentioned 3 years before that. Paul says that we
97 try to stay in a certain limit for CIP, but it puts a strain on things when these
98 unplanned things come up. Mike asks Paul if he is aware of anything that didn't get
99 funded this year because of the Kanc? Paul says there is always plenty with
100 infrastructure that needs to be done. CIP should be to preplan for big projects and
101 not to take a bond when you don't have to or not to take as big a bond. Paul says we
102 will be having some big projects coming up like: sewer, dispatch, water tanks, sewer
103 line on Main Street and we need to plan projects out better to prevent bonds. Ray
104 asked if we should ask department heads to give us a list of issues that they see
105 coming up? Paul says other departments are given form by CIP for upcoming
106 projects. Jack asks if the CIP has a plan going out years? Paul says they have plans
107 going out 6-7 years. There are two types of projects. Big projects like sewer
108 treatment plan, or dispatch or water tanks and then there are ones like the Kanc
109 lighting and lagoon air raters that are big, but can be planned out better. CIP is at
110 \$13,000 this year. The \$100,000 came from other areas, by people saying they could
111 wait on some areas and they shifted the money. Mike asked how do we say, "no"
112 then. Paul said it needs to fall with selectmen and department heads that need to
113 do the planning. Someone needs to ask why did this just come up now? Maybe
114 increase staff to look at every building etc., like at The Mountain Club. The
115 maintenance crew looks at everything and they plan out when rugs etc. are
116 replaced. Why do we not have someone to plan that? Mike asks if Paul could bring
117 us a CIP report to our meetings? Paul thinks minutes are online. Jim says the plans
118 go from CIP to planning board and it will be accepted on the 13th. Mike says the
119 department head brings issues to town then to CIP and then to planning board and
120 then it comes to us. Is it impossible to say no all the way down the line? Paul says tax
121 base isn't increasing at same rate as budgets and CIP.

- 122 4. Tracey asks if Water Committee was going to report back to us on their findings
123 from July from BIG WATER. Cindy says all of that is posted online. Paul says there is
124 a water committee meeting coming up and they are going to be looking at water
125 meters. Paul says you either have to fund it out of CIP or tap fees. Jack says to have a
126 flat fee not water meters. Paul says that and a fee for overages. Paul says discussion

127 coming up about water meters. In order for town to keep growing there are some
128 big-ticket items coming at us: water, sewer, road.

- 129 5. Ray brought up the need to at least talk about combining services with Woodstock.
130 Selectmen of Lincoln would need to talk with Woodstock selectmen. Paul says that
131 the properties are owned by Lincoln, so it's not a true 50/50 partnership that your
132 partner is fully invested in. Jack says that Woodstock's taxes are higher than ours,
133 but Paul states they would be even higher if they had to be full partners in the
134 services we share and pay for the land. Mike says that some companies have that
135 type of agreement where one partner says I can't be in business with you unless you
136 pay for all of the land. Jack says that we are impacted greatly by the water and
137 sewer use of the school and the road use and Woodstock doesn't pay anything for
138 that. Ray says everything can be negotiated so they are fair. Ray says there are
139 partnerships where one side can't afford the land so the other side rents the land to
140 them. There can be many different solutions and things can be changed and
141 structured in many different ways. Mike wonders if this is really worth discussing
142 since you can't go backwards on what has already been done. Paul thinks we can.
143 The town could say to continue our agreement we want you to purchase ½ of this
144 property. Woodstock got out of the dispatch of the police department and now
145 Plymouth and Woodstock are looking at coming back in with Lincoln because of the
146 costs they found elsewhere has risen. Mike says he doesn't see things going
147 anywhere if we are looking at changing the agreements on previous projects. Paul
148 says so how do we get Woodstock to combine more? Tracey says that the ones we
149 have already combined on we don't look at but on future projects together we
150 would look at owning those properties 50/50. Paul says to invite Woodstock into
151 this conversation about combining fire and police to better serve both our
152 communities. Mike says this conversation was started with them 20 years ago. Jim
153 says they are not a willing party. Paul says then to get them to start looking at
154 combining those things we say you need to start paying more on the things we
155 already share. Ray says charge a fee that justifies our cost and risk. Ray asks can one
156 community own part of another community? Paul says it can and was originally
157 done at the solid waste facility. Jim says it could be done with the fire department
158 by making a fire district so they wouldn't own a part of the town. Paul says a few
159 years back both towns tried to do a study as to what we could combine, but Lincoln
160 ok's the money to fund the study and Woodstock didn't. Mike said to bring up the
161 topic on January 16th when we both meet together. Mike says that this has been an
162 issue for over 20 years. Cindy says why don't we bring it up within our budget
163 committees and not through the selectmen? Paul says with all the years that have
164 gone by it's going to take a lot to get a discussion started and considered. So that is
165 why the costs of the things we already share need to be reevaluated. Susan says
166 with newer people now on their board, maybe Woodstock would be willing to look
167 at it again. Cindy says another way to encourage it is through the businesses and a
168 grass roots approach the way that Littleton has revitalized their Main Street. Paul

169 says the youth need to get more involved too. Cindy says by approaching it from
170 many avenues outside the town government too and then one day it may work.
171 6. Paul asks for departments to look at any big changes they are seeing come up in
172 their budgets.
173 7. Cindy asks about Debt Services and Mike says it's amortized.
174 8. Mike asks why Riverfront Park budgeted \$1000 and expended \$15,000.
175 9. Jack asks why Water Budget says they have only expended \$6000 of the \$40,000
176 budgeted?
177

178 **Other Business:**

179 December 3rd is our next meeting.
180 Selectmen will assign departments to the dates we have set for our meetings.
181 Kelsee says she is moving and thinks it will be before the 1st of the year.
182 Cindy asks about what is considered an excused or unexcused. Unexcused is no excuse for
183 not being at meeting.
184

185 Motion to Adjourn at 6:58 p.m.

186 Motion: Herb Second: Cindy Motion carries unanimously
187

188 _____
189 Chairman Mike Simons Date: _____