

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – January 10, 2019
Lincoln Town Hall, Lincoln, NH

ATTENDING: Beverly Hall, Larry Sweeney, Jack Daly, Cindy Lloyd, Tracey Brumlik, Dennis Ducharme, Chairman Mike Simons, Vice-Chairman Herb Gardner, Selectperson Jayne Ludwig, Susan Chenard, Lutz Wallem, Jim Spanos, Paul Beaudin
Excused: Beverly Hall, Dennis Ducharme
Staff Present: Town Manager Butch Burbank, Chief Ron Beard
Audience: Tamra Ham, 5 firefighters, OJ Robinson

Call to order: Herb Gardner calls the meeting to order at 5:30

Review of Budgets from Administration -

Special Warrant Articles – (see handout from Butch Burbank)

Fire Department Per Diem Wages/Equipment - \$134,200.00 is for 6 months. Paul Beaudin asked how many men for how many hours and days at what cost? Ron Beard said this is for 3 people, 8-10 hours a day, 7 days a week, during daytime hours, approximately 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. New firemen, with no training, will be \$12.50/ hour and with certification will increase by \$1 to \$13.50/hour. There are no benefits with this. This will be advertised to locals first and then will look out of town if no takers. It will be \$21/hour or less. Jack Daly asked how many hours per week? Ron Beard answered 32 hours or less, which is 210 man hours per week. It's \$125,000 for 6 months and double that for a full year. Paul Beaudin asked when they anticipated starting. It takes about 8 weeks to get the gear so if it's approved then it would be a June start date.

Paul asked what these people would do when not on calls. Ron said that they would be preplanning and maintaining equipment. Paul asked about using them in other departments, but Ron said they can only be used for fire department. Jack Daly is concerned about the \$400,000 increase in budget and asked if maybe starting with 1 per diem person would be better. Are we going beyond what is necessary since they only responded to 5 car and 1 structure fire? Ron said they also responded to 47 car accidents. They need continuous training and be able to preplan for these modern buildings so that the fire fighters are safe. Jack asked if we can require new buildings to have sprinklers and Ron said no. Jayne Ludwig asked how does ISO come into this? Ron said he had a 50 minute call with Andrew Sempela (sp) with Water Source and they went over the water report and how it compares to 2007 report. He said with alternative water sources and manpower improvements the score would probably go up. Paul asked that if guys on crew now are out of town and we are using these per diem people, how is that improving manpower? Ron said the local guys are not going to

42 give up a full time job for a 32 hour a week job and locals would then be available at night.
43 Paul asked if getting mutual aid from Woodstock is a better plan?

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45 Butch said this is a very viable option that needs to be brought before the voters. He said Ron
46 is giving us his best information and although it may be a little ahead, we need to look to the
47 future. Mike Simons asked what are the plans for the next couple of years? Ron said that both
48 the fire flow assessment and growth of town show that big changes are coming. Motor vehicle
49 accidents are up daytime responses are up. Town is getting bigger and busier and we need the
50 staff to take care of it. Butch said with the rule of "2 fire fighters in and 2 fire fighters out,"
51 insurance will ask questions if the manpower is low and if there is every a tragedy. There are
52 many other issues the fire department deals with. We need to look to the future. Water and
53 sewer need to be caught up to build out and we need to get ahead of the curve. What will
54 town look like in 5-10 years? Put it out to the town and if voters don't want it then that's fine.
55 We have a vibrant tax base that is growing but we need the infrastructure to support the
56 growth. We need to meet minimum criteria as this can affect taxes and insurance greatly. The
57 idea crafted by Chief Beard is a very good one. Herb said that he wants to thank the fire
58 department for all their help with the Nordic Inn and the treatment of his wife.

59
60 Paul agrees we need help, but it's a big financial jump and what is Plan B if the voters don't
61 want this plan. Maybe more incentives are needed, but he is worried we are just throwing
62 money at it. How about combining departments, just like we use same recreation center and
63 clinic. He understands the concern, but the expenditure is concerning.

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65 Jayne Ludwig said we need to continue to ask Woodstock about combining again. The past is
66 the past and we need to look forward at the whole system not just a piece.

67
68 Jack asked Jim Spanos about progress of new 92 room hotel going up and Jim said that they
69 still needed the engineering report. Jack asked if a new revenue source (impact fees) could be
70 found to supplement the money Ron Beard is looking for. Butch said the impact fees need to
71 be brought planning board to be looked at. We need a way to improve staffing without
72 committing to paying more money for healthcare and retirement. Maybe we need to adjust
73 amount we are asking for. People are getting stuck on the car and building calls, but the fire
74 department responds to many different emergencies, carbon monoxide issues being one of
75 the more dangerous ones.

76
77 Mike ask Ron to speak about what he's done since he's been hired. Ron listed the fire flow
78 assessment with the alternative water sources and staffing. After the 2007 report and the
79 2014 survey the 2007 report was adjusted. We now have a new ladder truck and a reserve
80 pump. He was told that after everything that's been there is no reason why we can't move
81 from a 6 up to a 5 or 4. We will show good progress once the audit is done. If we complete our
82 goals then it changes the rates. After their letter then we are given 60 days to respond and
83 then given 6 months to report back.

84

85 Paul Beaudin asked why there is a \$1000 change from first report under 2019 BOS to this one
86 and Butch said there was a \$1000 donation given for the Riverfront Park.

87

88 Paul went on to say that if Ron says we need this we trust him, but we would like further
89 thought on how to permanently fix problem, not just a bandaide. Ron commented that it's
90 very tough to find new volunteers. Butch said this may be a way to ease into a full-time staff.
91 The budget will probably mirror the police budget if we have 24/7 fire coverage. Grants
92 available that pay 75% the 1st year, 50% the second, 25% the 3rd and then on the 4th year it's all
93 on the town to cover the costs. This is a very conservative budget with work that needs to be
94 done.

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96 Cindy Lloyd said we have a lot of development going on and we need a safe town and this is an
97 interim solution and in the meantime the selectmen could look at a permanent solution for
98 both towns.

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100 **PD Vehicle** – Butch said this is to replace a cruiser and we had a year off last year.

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102 **Highway Block Grant** – Butch said \$28,000 is anticipated every year.

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104 **Water Meters** – Butch said there is a separate grant for leak detection. This would be based on
105 3600 meters and they are read off a satellite. Hotels would have one master meter. OJ
106 Robinson said that number is based on last time meters were installed. If they have 12 meters
107 then, they would get 12 meters now. Paul asked if we would charge? Butch said selectmen
108 haven't decided. Paul said the last time the meters were in it didn't do a thing so unless there
109 will be a charge he is against it. Jayne said it can be on the selectman's agenda for Monday as
110 to whether to charge or not. OJ commented that a guest speaker is coming to talk to Water
111 Committee about best way to charge and he's only in favor of the meters if there will be billing
112 also. Jack said the town of Woodstock brought in \$282,000 last year and we wouldn't see a
113 benefit for 5-6 years. This could tie in with fire and sewer upgrades and be a source of
114 revenue. We could dedicate the money charged to these improvements. Maybe start at \$100
115 per household. Fairness is needed and there could also be hardship waivers. Cindy said we
116 need to look at uncontrolled leaks and it can drive conservation. Butch abuses of water are
117 seen to stop once they are charged for water use. Jayne asked Jack how do you see the
118 conservation part being addressed. Jack stated that you start with education, retrofit units
119 with low flow shower heads and toilets. Grants are available for this. Include the education in
120 the tax bill. Jim asked how long the meters would last. Butch answered that it's a 20-year
121 cycle. CIP would put money aside for replacements or give cost to homeowners. Also, maybe
122 bill for overages not a regular amount. Mike said we would have money to offset the cost
123 later. Butch asked who pays for them initially. Mike said we need money to get system up and
124 running. The first system was put in place in 1992. The Water Committee is looking at rates
125 with American Water Works. Butch said there could be a threshold and then pay over that. OJ

126 said he has always been in favor of combining services but leaders and fire department have
127 no interest in joining us. Paul asked if the board wants to charge? This has to be decided first
128 and then look at rates and how to charge. If there is a bulk amount of water allowed, people
129 will use it. Stated again that if Woodstock shares in some services they should share in others.
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131 **Additional Water Sources** – Butch stated we are looking at alternative water sources: water
132 wells, Georgiana Falls. And the funding would be used to develop these sources as viable
133 options. This is also for portable sources. Forrest Ridge could be used as dry hydrant. This
134 money would allow for engineering.
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136 **Riverfront Park from Grant** - \$1000 donation given.
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138 Paul asked if we are going over the BOS trust funds tonight. Mike said yes, that is next.
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140 **Capital Reserve Funds/Trust Funds** –
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142 **Fire Truck** – Butch said this is truck was replaced.
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144 **Public Works Vehicles** – Butch said a loader and dump truck were replaced.
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146 **Road and Street Reconstruction** – Butch said this was normal and West Street drew out of
147 this.
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149 **Engineering and Planning** – Butch said this number was raised to more accurately reflect what
150 needed for planning and engineering. Using engineer more to design and recheck. OJ said
151 there were two areas we were using the engineer for: (1) master plan and little projects and
152 (2) long term planning like with sewer. Paul said maybe charging for water would help with the
153 sewer costs.
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155 **Cemetery**- Butch said this is for a new building.
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157 **Property & Building Maintenance** – Butch said it was divided out as follows: \$5000 this year
158 for roof on recycling building. \$10,000 (next 3 years) on highway garage infrastructure,
159 \$10,000 this year on new town services building feasibility study, \$12,000 this year to 2023 to
160 build fund up for town building infrastructure for furnace and air conditioning, Kanc Rec Area
161 \$1000 each year to 2024 for a building. This is on current CIP. \$5000 a year through 2024 for
162 fire department building. \$10,000 a year through 2023 for Kanc Rec parking lot, \$9000 a year
163 through 2025 for covered structure at Kanc Rec and \$5000 this year to redo brick work on
164 town hall. Totals \$67,000. Paul asked about the \$5000 for fire department building. Butch said
165 it's for little things, like painting. Should this be in fire department CIP not operating budget?
166

167 **Trustees of the Trust Fund** – Herb Gardner said there is a total of \$50,520.25 in interest from
168 all the banks (see list of banks and individual amounts). Jack asked if they are required to file
169 taxes on that money and OJ said no. There was \$1000 budget last year and now want \$1000
170 increase due to an increase in meeting dates. Beverly Hall has numbers on how money was
171 spent and will show that information at next meeting on Thursday. Butch said there was a
172 \$56,000 discrepancy in the accounting books he had to report it to the attorney general and
173 the bank helped to reconcile everything and found the bookkeeping errors.

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175 **Other Business** – Paul asked if joint meeting with Woodstock on Wednesday was at the same
176 time. Mike said he's not sure but thinks it is 6 pm, but will check on time and put it out in an
177 email.

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179 Mike handed out minutes from January 8th meeting. Since no one has had a chance to look at
180 them a motion was made to table them and look at them at next meeting on January 17th.

181 Motion: Jack Daly Second: Cindy Lloyd Motion carries unanimously

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183 **Motion to Adjourn at 7:30**

184 Motion: Paul Beaudin Second: Herb Gardner Motion carries unanimously

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Chairman Mike Simons


Date: 1/18/19

