

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – September 24, 2019
Lincoln Town Hall, Lincoln, NH
(approved)

ATTENDING: Chairman Mike Simons, Vice-Chairman Herb Gardner, Jack Daly, Cindy Lloyd, Tracey Brumlik, Susan Chenard, Jim Spanos, Paul Beaudin, Dennis Ducharme, Ray D'Amante, Kelsee Beaudin

Absent: Jayne Ludwig (excused), Beverly Hall

Audience: Lutz Wallem

Call to order: 5:32 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

July 30 minutes reviewed

Motion to approve: Paul Beaudin Second: Cindy Lloyd

Discussion: Kelsee makes a correction for line 24 that she didn't suggest the meeting in October, but just asked if the $\frac{3}{4}$ year numbers would be available.

Motion carries: For: 10 Opposed: 0 Abstain: James Spanos

February 12 minutes will be discussed at end of meeting after we make copies

Housekeeping:

Mike mentions that all minutes from other meetings can be found on town website.

Meeting Schedule for 2020:

Paul says CIP only has one more meeting and they are done meeting with department heads, town manager and staff. Then CIP votes, then Planning Board votes on it. Numbers changed to reflect more infrastructure improvements. There were some issues that came up like lighting at the Kanc that needed to be done which was \$100,000.

Mike says last year Butch said there wouldn't be any budgets ready until after the holidays. Dennis suggests that we start on the 10th of December.

Paul suggests giving questions to department heads so we can have answers by December dates.

October 29... present any questions for department heads and $\frac{3}{4}$ year review

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

December 10 ... Start going over (easy) department budgets if we have them

December 17

January 7

January 9

January 14

43 January 16 ... Lincoln hosts meeting with Woodstock
44 January 21 and 23
45 January 28 and 30
46 February 4 and February 6 ... snow dates if needed
47 February 11 ... Public Meeting and February 13 ... will be a continuation date if needed
48 March 10 ... TOWN MEETING
49

50 Dates will be given to Butch and he can put in what budgets to discuss on what dates. Paul
51 says that CIP should be one of last ones because of changes that may have to be made.
52 Mike mentions that we do not approve budgets until the very end so that changes can be
53 made instead of improving repeatedly. We only recommend until end. We present an
54 approved budget at the Public Hearing. Paul asks if anyone has a desire to give department
55 heads the % increase that we want budget kept at. They don't have to, but we could ask
56 now instead of waiting until after they present. We could ask them to keep increase to a
57 certain %. Jack thinks last year we asked for no more than a 3% increase across the board.
58 Mike says we'll decide on that on the 29th meeting. He suggests that we be able to have
59 some basis as to why we are asking for that percent if we choose to present it to
60 department heads that way. Paul says a lot of things were moved in CIP and extended out
61 further in order to accommodate more infrastructure, specifically in regards to water and
62 sewer. Mike says we need to ask what things came up that you weren't ready for in your
63 budgets. At the Selectmen's meeting there were some major things that we need to look
64 at in regards to the sewage lagoons. Paul says water meters are going to be a major issue
65 affecting this town. It will affect water, sewer and infrastructure.
66

67 **Review Expenses:**

68 Jack would like annotations from departments as to why there are some larger
69 discrepancies between what was projected and what we are at now for expenditures. The
70 ones that jump out at us now are:

71 Insurance: \$4000 of \$113,000 spent. When is bill due?

72 Water Distribution: \$6,000 of \$40,000 spent

73 Legal: \$160,000 budgeted, but at \$172,000 now. Why over?

74 Public Works: Why overtime is over? Paul says there was another hire, but not sure why
75 overtime is exceeding budget? Should new hires keep overtime down?

76 Debt Services: \$750,000 of \$935,000 spent

77 Health Agencies: We can request information, but they don't have to give it to us. Cindy
78 says would like back up information needed on seeing who is receiving services.
79

80 **Other Business:**

81 Ray discusses the Increment Financing District. This is not a tax reduction. They use
82 bonding process to spread out public improvements that the town would like to have and
83 then the project would pay for that without expense to town and then there is increased
84 revenue. Mike asks where this should first be presented? Ray has a one pager with an

85 explanation on it that he could present. Cindy asks whether it should start with the Budget
86 Committee or the Planning Board? Paul suggests it be presented to Selectmen first so that
87 we go through the correct channels.

88
89 Ray asks about Lincoln and Woodstock combining things since we are so close, like the
90 Library. Paul mentions that we've been trying to do this for 20 years. Tracey suggests that
91 it needs to be brought up every year. Paul says volunteerism is going by the wayside and that
92 consolidating may be the answer. We need to keep the lines of communication open. Ray
93 says we have a great opportunity to keep budgets down by combining more services of
94 both towns. Paul says Lincoln is the biggest share-holder of the property under which the
95 recreations and community services are. Woodstock does not pay for the land or the
96 building. He makes a suggestion that if you want to be a share these services 50% then pay
97 ½ of what the property is worth. Woodstock only pays for ½ the operations. Paul says
98 there is something different with the use/ownership of the school and the medical center
99 property that was put in affect back when the mill was operating, but not sure what it is.
100 Mike doesn't want Woodstock to be pushed away, but to join in. It's not just Woodstock
101 people who are opposed. Paul says it's not personal it's just what is good for people. It's
102 going to take both sides to figure it out and keep talking about it. May be a good idea to
103 get others involved. We need to figure out how to benefit both towns and pay for the
104 things we both need. Cindy says that only 11 towns with a lower tax rate than Lincoln.

105
106 **Other Business:**

107 February 12th minutes will have to be discussed next meeting since we can't get copies.

108 No opening on Budget Committee

109 Susan says we need to keep track of unexcused absences.

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111 Motion to Adjourn at 6:35 p.m.

112 Motion: Paul Beaudin Second: Cindy Lloyd Motion carries unanimously

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Chairman Mike Simons

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Date: