

Present: Donna Murphy (Chair) Robert Fisher, Edward Strong, Rosanne Adams, Phil Lytle and 2 members of the public.

Absent: Cindy Saklad (out of town)

Meeting opened at 6:30 PM.

#### BUSINESS

1. MOTION by Edward Strong, 2<sup>nd</sup> Phil Lytle to approve the Minutes of March 30, 2015. VOTE: 4-0. Chair concurs.
2. MOTION by Edward Strong, 2<sup>nd</sup> Phil Lytle to approve the Minutes of April 6, 2015 as corrected. VOTE: 4-0. Chair concurs.
3. **Review of our letter for the Town Report book.** Following discussion and changes made upon the recommendations of members of the Budget Committee Edward Strong made a MOTION to approve the letter as amended which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robert Fisher. The Chair then opened the discussion and asked for any public comment. Robert Pomerleau noted that seeing the impact on the tax rate because of the increases in the local and school budgets would make the greatest impression on the voters and suggested that something be said about what part of the MSAD budget belongs to Eliot and how it will impact the tax rate. There was discussion and there was agreement to include a sentence on what Eliot's portion of the MSAD budget is and what the combined increase in the school and town budget will have on the tax rate for a \$200,000 home. The Chair said she would work to get the correct numbers and revise the letter. The discussion closed and Edward Strong amended his motion, agreed to by Robert Fisher, to include the additional information on impact of the MSAD budget on the tax rate and the vote was held. VOTE 4-0. Chair concurs.
4. **The Chair asked to re-open discussion on the Reserve Accounts.** In looking for the TIFD Reserve, the \$52,000 that was to come out of that account was included as Revenue. She questioned this since it is not actually revenue but comes from a completely separate account to fund the TIFD project. Phil suggested that she talk with the town manager about this. Members agreed that it is appropriate to be in this article because it needs to be applied to the expenses. She then questioned why it is listed as part of what needs to be raised by taxes in Article 35 – Reserve Accounts, since it comes out of the TIFD account and doesn't come from what is raised by taxes. Following discussion there was a MOTION by Edward Strong to remove \$52,000 from the Article 35 (specifically the TIFD Reserve account) leaving a balance for this Article of \$8787 because we believe it was included in the total request, in error. VOTE: 4-0. Chair concurs.
5. **The Chair reported that the Town Manager has requested an explanation for our recommendations** to each of the Articles that we are not in agreement with. Rosanne spoke to the process this year and her hope that we would share our thinking on the Articles as we went along so the BoS could know where we were at and why we were making the recommendations and then perhaps there could be some real discussion; some give and take between the Budget Committee and the Selectmen. We might be able to come to agreement about some of the Articles. She had hoped that that is what would take place during the joint discussions on the budget but it didn't, but that maybe next year the Budget Committee could try to see that this happens.
6. **The Chair reported that she related the suggestion of finding out what the savings might be to the storm water project** by having employees do some of the work rather than outsourcing it all. Last year 388 staff hours were spent on this and she suggested there might be some time this year that could be spent on it. Edward Strong suggested leaving the storm water article as is and if new information comes then we can deal with it then.

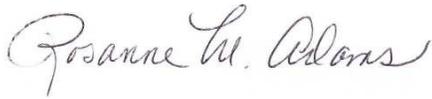
7. **The Chair reported that at the last BoS meeting the Selectmen**, rather than correcting the amount of Article 39 they decided to move \$500 from York County Shelters to the Visiting Nurse program. We had removed the \$500 completely. After discussion there was a MOTION by Edward Strong, 2<sup>nd</sup> Robert Fisher to recommend \$14,498 for Article 39 and put \$500 back for the Home Health Visiting Nurse. VOTE: 3-0. 1 abstention. Chair concurs in the affirmative.
  
8. Review of decisions and reasoning for each Article recommendation that differs from the Selectmen's:
  - a. ARTICLE 18 – Revenues: Added \$32,000 (from the CSD Building Reserve Account) to cover the costs of repairing the building and fencing at the park.
  
  - b. ARTICLE 20 – Administration:
    - i. Removed \$16,554 which brings the Building Cleaning position to a corrected 20 hours per week. It was mistakenly put in at 40 hours when it is a 20 hour/week position.
  
    - ii. Removed \$10,381 which represents a 1.5% reduction in the proposed salary/benefit increase of 3% for non-union employees. The 3% increase has been referred to as a COLA but the federal COLA for this year is only 1.5% and so we have brought the increase in line with this.
  
  - c. ARTICLE 22 – Fire Department: Removed \$582 which represents a 1.5% reduction in the proposed salary/benefit increase of 3% for non-union employees. The 3% increase has been referred to as a COLA but the federal COLA for this year is only 1.5% and so we have brought the increase in line with this.
  
  - d. ARTICLE 23 – Police Department: Removed \$2085 which represents a 1.5% reduction in the proposed salary/benefit increase of 3% for non-union employees. The 3% increase has been referred to as a COLA but the federal COLA for this year is only 1.5% and so we have brought the increase in line with this.
  
  - e. ARTICLE 24 – Public Safety:
    - i. Removed \$2000 from the Harbormaster's Salary. The BoS recommendation is a 30% increase in salary over last year.
  
    - ii. Removed \$2250 for the Deputy Harbormaster salary. This is a new position, not budgeted for last year and should have been an advertised position.
  
  - f. ARTICLE 25 – PUBLIC WORKS:
    - i. Removed \$65,651 for the full time operator position (in favor of keeping the part-time summer position in article 28)
  
    - ii. Removed \$1558 which represents a 1.5% reduction in the proposed salary/benefit increase of 3% for non-union employees. The 3% increase has been referred to as a COLA but the federal COLA for this year is only 1.5% and so we have brought the increase in line with this.
  
  - g. ARTICLE 28 – SUMMER MAINTAINENCE:
    - i. Added in \$16,039 for the part-time position

- ii. Removed \$6000 for cemeteries asking that the town come up with a plan for next year, working with the Historical Society, and submit the request then.
- iii. Removed \$368 which represents a 1.5% reduction in the proposed salary/benefit increase of 3% for non-union employees. The 3% increase has been referred to as a COLA but the federal COLA for this year is only 1.5% and so we have brought the increase in line with this.
- h. ARTICLE 30 - Transfer Station: Removed \$966 which represents a 1.5% reduction in the proposed salary/benefit increase of 3% for non-union employees. The 3% increase has been referred to as a COLA but the federal COLA for this year is only 1.5% and so we have brought the increase in line with this.
- i. ARTICLE 32 – CSD: Removed \$2770 which represents a 1.5% reduction in the proposed salary/benefit increase of 3% for non-union employees. The 3% increase has been referred to as a COLA but the federal COLA for this year is only 1.5% and so we have brought the increase in line with this.
  - i. The Chair noted that she has asked why the Assistant Director’s Salary increased from 14,000 to 17,000 and has not gotten a reply.
  - ii. Robert Fisher spoke to obtaining Kittery salaries and made a MOTION, 2<sup>nd</sup> Phil Lytle to have the Chair obtain a listing for the members of the Committee. VOTE: 4-0. Chair concurs.
- j. ARTICLE 34 – CIP:
  - i. Removed \$7,500 from the Fire Facility CIP for the generator which brings that CIP to a balance of \$12,500 which is ½ the money that is said to be needed. Can request the remainder next year.
    - 1. Robert Fisher said that although he doesn’t disagree that they need a new generator, he doesn’t believe it will cost as much as they are asking for.
  - ii. Removed \$5000 from the Police Cruiser. The Police Vehicle Reserve has a balance of \$39,000 and by reducing the funding of this by \$5000 to a total appropriation of \$41,000 the Chief could still replace 2 vehicles (according to his own estimation) this year and have a balance of \$5000. In addition there is a trade-in discount which would result in less monies being used from the reserve account that has not been taken into account in the proposed budget request.
- k. ARTICLE 35 –RESERVE ACCOUNTS:
  - i. Remove \$6000 from the Sick Leave account. This account has enough money to cover the needs.
  - ii. Remove \$7213 from the Contingency Account which will bring it to a balance of \$75,000 which is what is continually said to be needed for this account.
  - iii. Remove \$52,000 from the TIFD Reserve listing. It is not an expense that is raised by taxpayer monies, as are the others that need to be raised to put into the appropriate reserves. It comes directly from the funds in the TIFD account.
- l. ARTICLE 36 – BONDS:
  - i. Removed \$37,280 for the Sewer Bond. We only recommend the Police Bond.

m. ARTICLE 38 – LIBRARY: Recommend funding at last year’s level. Investments have done well this year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm upon the MOTION of Edward Strong, 2<sup>nd</sup> Robert Fisher. VOTE: 4-0. Chair concurs.

Respectfully Submitted by

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosanne M. Adams".

Rosanne Adams, Recording Sec.

Date Approved: May 12, 2015