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**January 19, 2011
Budget Meeting**

Meeting was postponed from Tuesday, January 18, 2011 due to a snowstorm.

Present: C. Guiry DMD Ch., A. Richards, R. P. McGinnity, & A.A. Milkovits

F.A.C.: R. Laroche

Public: Moderator Catherine Schwenk, resident H. Jodoin,

Meeting opened at 5:30 PM. Chairman Guiry stressed the need for level budgeting this year but also cautioned not to put the public at risk by cutting budget lines too much.

Agenda:

Departments reviewed:

1. Fire Department: Fire Chief David Baker reviewed each budget line. He raised both the Fire Chief's line and the FD Stipend line. There are now 23 fire fighters and 6 EMS members. The Chief would like to pay them a higher stipend for their volunteer efforts for the Town. After some discussion, the Chief elected to decrease the code books line to \$400. The Chief also withdrew the warrant article for new air bottles. At this time, the FD has 24 bottles to spare that can be re-filled. Communications line was reduced but the Chief will request written confirmation on the decrease from Hillsborough County. The waterhole line has not been spent in the last several years but the Chief is planning to have the waterholes at Parker's and the Fire Station cleaned out this year. The Chief discussed future plans for expansion for the Fire Station. He will propose a warrant article for the 2012 budget for an addition to the Fire Station. Total budget for the Fire Department: \$51,488 – no final decision for this budget.
2. Highway Department: Road Agent Mark Brackett reviewed each line. The following changes were made:
 - Road Agent salary reduced to \$51,000
 - Equipment Operator I salary reduced to \$40,041 – Frederick Greenwood will be moved up to Eq. Operator I.
 - Equipment Operator II salary reduced to \$38,000 -- new hire
 - Other salaries reduced to \$52,025
 - Overtime reduced to \$15,000
 - Payroll taxes and retirement figures will be adjusted for the next meeting.
 - Combine lines for reclaiming materials and crusher to one line for "Hired equipment" for \$10,000
 - Reduce Telephone line to \$2,100
 - Reduce Edges to \$4,000
 - Change Fuel line to Vehicle fuel for \$26,000 and Heating fuel for \$10,000

There will be 2 HD warrant articles: Chip sealing for \$50,000 and purchasing a six wheel truck for \$50,000. Road Agent will research truck leases. No final decision on this budget.

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Mr. Jodoin requested a detail accounting of the overtime line. Chairman Guiry stated that overtime for the Highway Department happens more in winter due to storms. The Selectmen will review the overtime on a quarterly basis.

3. Police Department: Police Chief Barry Hutchins discussed the increases in the PD budget. At the suggestion of the Selectmen, the Chief will split the office expense line into office expenses and communication line. The Chief also discussed a warrant article for a new cruiser. After more discussion, it was decided to have three warrant articles: one for a three year lease for a new cruiser, another to start a capital reserve for purchasing a police cruiser and a third to appropriate money to put in the new capital reserve. No final decisions were made on this budget.

The public budget hearing was set for Tuesday, February 1, 2011 for 7 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Barkley H. Milton
Admin. Assistant