

**November 29, 2011**  
**2012 Budget Meeting**

Present: A. Richards, P. McGinnity and A. A. Milkovits (Chairman C. Guiry, DMD absent)

F.A.C.: R. Larochelle, L. Lavoie

Also present: 4 residents

Meeting opened at 7:00 PM.

**Departments:**

1. Fire Department: Fire Chief David Baker presented budget with some changes:
  - Increased warrant article for fire station addition to \$30,000 from \$24,000. Selectmen requested bids to have a firm number for this article.
  - Selectmen also discussed article to relocate the antenna. Residents also questioned the cost of relocation. A suggestion was made to change the height of the antenna at the present site. Chief will check into this and report back his findings at the next budget meeting.
  - Decreased electricity line to \$2,400
  - Decreased heat line to \$2,400
  - Upon review by Selectmen, increased vehicle maintenance line to \$6,000. Chief Baker will be using “on spots” chain system on the trucks.
  - New total for Fire Department budget is \$60,942, 19% increase over 2011 budget.
2. Police Department: Police Chief Barry G. Hutchins presented the PD budget:
  - New lines for Heat at \$1,000 and Electricity at \$1,400
  - Increase to Police Cruiser line – there are two cruiser lease payments
  - Reviewed Equipment line – Chief explained he will be replacing some of the firearms.
  - Residents questioned the 10% increase to second patrolman line. Chief and Selectmen explained first that there are no pay scales for the town employees, something that the Chief has requested for many years. When the officer was hired, he was told that his pay would reflect his twenty years experience and it has not. Every year the Chief attempted to raise the line but Selectmen were not allowing any increases. Chief Hutchins presented a comparison of surrounding town’s patrolman’s hourly rates and benefits and the average patrolman salary rate and chief salary rate for towns 1000-1999 population with benefit rates. Town is under in patrolman rates; town pays \$17.86 for second patrolman other towns’ range between \$19.80/hr. and \$24.25/hr. Selectmen McGinnity explained that it is not a raise but a salary adjustment for a 20+ year patrolman.
3. Highway Department: Road Agent Fred Greenwood presented the Highway Department budget:
  - Increase to Road Agent salary – Selectmen advised to leave salary at \$51,000 – all agreed.
  - Increases to other equipment operators' salaries were okayed.
  - Selectmen requested clarification for the increase to Part-time salaries – do not agree with increase to \$55,000. Road Agent explained that he would

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like the flexibility of hiring more part-time workers. This would be helpful to keep 24 hour coverage during snowstorms. He also pointed out the decrease in the plowing line that reflects less contracted snowplow trucks. Mr. Greenwood explained the present improved plowing routes and methods used. No final decision was made on the part-time salaries.

- Culverts – HD will be purchasing more than 7 replacement culverts in 2012.
- Hired equipment – HD will hire the crusher for 2 weeks work in the pit.
- New total for Highway Town Maintenance is \$\$447,674.
- Equipment Maintenance – Grader repairs and backhoe front bucket.
- Tires – tires needed for grader and loader.
- Highway Vehicle & Equipment – second lease payment for new truck voted in 2011.
- New total for Highway Department - \$569,320.

Next budget meeting was set for Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 7 PM at the Mann House. This will be a total budget review. All department heads will be invited to attend to answer any questions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.