



Selectmen's Meeting
Town Office
Wednesday, November 6, 2013
6:00 P.M.

Present: Selectmen Sam Seppala, Roberta Oeser, Dan Aho and Executive Secretary Nicole Sesia
Approved Minutes

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Don Cook thanked the Police Chief and the Fire Chief for cooperating with the budget process.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Sam announced that the tax rate had been set at \$25.46. The town rate is the same as last year and the increase is due to the school budget.

Roberta made a motion approve the accounts payable and payroll for 11/6/13. Dan seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Mike Cloutier, DPW Director is over budget on diesel fuel due to fuel price increase earlier in year. Mike talked to Matt Peard of Monadnock Disposal about taking the recyclables to him in Jaffrey. Matt agreed to let Mike take the recyclables to Jaffrey with no charge to the Town. It will cut the use of fuel down, and decrease wear and tear on the truck. It would be a 2 year contract.

Roberta made a motion to contract with Monadnock Disposal for our recyclables. Dan seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Map 4 Lot 37

Roberta did some more research on this lot and found that this property was the old Town dump and did not think we could sell it due to liability issues. The Town could sell the curb cut if the state would allow it to be moved to give access to the Kinnunen's land. Mike stated it could be harmful to disturb the old land. A Land Survey would have to be done to determine where the line is and how much the town owns. There has to be a warrant article to sell the curb cut to allow access.

Pat Martin gave an update on the library weatherization project. Chief Donovan inspected the library and was glad to see a fire proof door in the works. Some glass was broken on one of the cases with the stuffed animals in it. The weatherization on the town office would be \$6,500.00 but that has been put on hold.

Roberta gave an overview of a presentation for a new website for the town. Craig Fraley said he could do some looking for new website quotes. Tom Coneys thinks it maybe a little steeply priced.

Roberta would like to get the phone system updated. The voice over maybe a little out of our price range because we still need 2 copper lines to the Police Station, the Fire Station and the Town Office.

The estimate would be about \$20,000 for the fiber with voice over. Sam suggested that Tom should look into the town buildings and see if he could get a lower price quote. Pat Martin explained that the biggest savings with the voice over IP would be if you had facilities all over the country, then the calling from building to building would be free. The town office phones don't always put calls through they just bounce around without landing anywhere. Mike Dipasquale suggested calling First Choice Communications out of Brattleboro who can fix NEC phone systems.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Animal Control

Frank presented the suggestions for the animal control budget. \$11,146 wage is staying level. Communications line item is \$600 which is for Larry's cell phone stipend. Food and Supplies line item was \$300; that has been decreased to \$200 due to donations from last year. The supplies include antibacterial sprays, rubber gloves and cleaning products for the kennels. Uniforms line item is being reduced to \$500. Mileage line item is staying the same. Animal euthanasia has been brought down to \$400. The budget is down \$250 from last year.

Police-

The Prosecutor program is down \$4425 to the final cost of 54,579. The test line item is used for new hires. The academy has mandated that the hiring agency has to do all the background checks and evaluations. The phone system line item was rounded up in case they increase. Dan asked if the numbers that we have spent so far are accurate. The Contract services line item includes all of the radar equipment maintenance. Communication and radios line item has been brought down to \$5000 in case one needs to be repaired. The repeater that never was delivered but was approved has been returned and the money will be returned. Reprogramming the radios to the fire frequencies is an option to keep both departments in constant contact. Administrative services pays for all paper and office supplies. The fleet is being updated so the maintenance cost should go down. Next year a new unmarked SUV would be purchased if approved. Mileage is for the records keepers travel for classes. It might be doable to lower both part time and overtime hours. Ellen- police officers do not get social security. The final number for the police budget is \$861,412.

Tom Coneys likes that the Budget Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectmen can work together.

Recreation-

Close to 17,000 users utilize the Recreation department. If you don't play a sport you don't pay for the sport out of your taxes. The Recreation Department now owes the general fund nothing. In 2010 the 2nd fulltime position was eliminated. We are right around the same amount of revenues as 2012. A 2nd full-timer would eliminate some of the part timers. The full timer would be paid a salary between 20 and 35 thousand. \$18,000 would come out of the revolving fund. If the programs increase than more of the salary could come out of the revolving fund. Day camp is in the negatives due to all of the programs trips and not as many people paid the late fee. The \$1,000 for Tennis is for the ice skating rink. That is a free program. Program supplies are for playground balls, and wood chips on the playground. Part time staff could be anywhere from 8-11 per hour. The coordinator gets 12.50 an hour. The eighteen thousand out of the revolving fund is already taken out of the fund for part time wages. Craig explained that he can't pay for a fulltime position completely out of the revolving fund. The revolving fund increases about \$42,480 per school year from profits from the after school program. Tom Coney's would like Craig to look at his numbers again and be sure they are right. Sam would like to see that Craig come back and show that he will not lose the \$18,000 out of the revolving fund. The taxpayers should know that it would be thirty three thousand for a full timer in case something happens and the revolving fund

no longer can supply this cost. Ellen explained that the only thing that hits the town general fund is the wages and benefits that are not taken out of the revolving fund.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS / COMMUNICATION

A thank you letter from Rindge Women's club was given to the Board of Selectmen. \$4100 was requested from the Town for the Historical Society for the oil bill.

River center asking for support \$1000 and Mary was looking for it to be added to her line item. Personnel committee, we should have them look at wages and benefits after the budget season, it's a little to hectic trying to get that done along with the budget.

Adjournment