

Selectmen's minutes of meeting Feb. 18, 2014

Members present: Jeffrey Gray, Patrick Barrett, Lisa Blackmer, Stephan Harasyko
Dolores Harasyko

Members absent: Rosario Messina

Called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Reviewed FY2015 budgets

Discussed the Tree Acct. John Burrows is concerned about trees on New Hartford Rd. This budget was cut by a third last year. Steve feels there is enough in the budget and doesn't want to increase it.

Discussed the completion of New Hartford Rd. Steve responded that there should be enough in Chapter 90 to complete the road this year.

Discussed highway dept. equipment, he does not anticipate purchasing any new large equipment.

Discussed Machinery Maint. Patrick asked if it was possible to reduce the operating budget. Steve reviewed some recent repairs, the majority of the fleet of equipment in aging. The backhoes and loaders are mid 1990's. Steve is not comfortable lowering the budget, he has been level funding for the whole of his term. Motion by Jeff, second by Patrick to accept the highway dept budgets.

Discussed the Assessors Overlay Acct. Discussed the possibility of funding the police cruiser from this account.

Discussed the Treasurers budget, still waiting for numbers for software and insurances. The salary for the assistant is up 2%. She is working on making her salary comparable to other towns and by DOR standards. The Treasurer job is actually 2 jobs, treasurer and accountant.

Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff to accept the general government budgets except Treasurer and Town Admin.

Kathy Jacobs responded for the school budget. Sandisfield's increase is approx \$40,000 or 2.9%. They are still negotiating the teachers contract. No date available for the final budget number yet.

Motion by Jeff, second by Patrick to accept the budgets for the library, cemetery and veteran's budgets.

Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff to accept the Police Dept. budgets pending funding for the new cruiser.

Motion by Jeff, second by Patrick to accept the budgets for board of health, VNA, Brien Center and interest for loans.

Discussed the stabilization account. John Burrows is requesting a line item which would transfer from free cash to pay off items 9, 10, 11 & 12 on the stabilization spreadsheet. The town no longer owns the items except the salt shed. This would reduce the stabilization line item by \$68,000. A lengthy discussion followed. There is approx \$600,000 in free cash and 1,000,000 in stabilization. Teresa and Jeff would like to forgive them and not take it from free cash. We will review and address at the next meeting.

Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff to accept the operation and maintenance budget.

Ron Bernard in to explain the increase in the Historical Comm. budget. He explained the importance of the consultant fees for historical/architectural surveys. He has paid for surveys for about 1/3 of the properties from the proceeds from the Then and Now book. He is also looking into grants. Motion by Jeff, second by Patrick to accept the budget for the Historical Comm.

Jean Atwater Williams reviewed the Tech Comm. budget. Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff to accept the Tech Comm budget.

Mail reviewed
Warrants reviewed and signed
Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Jeffrey Gray

Patrick Barrett