

BOARD of SELECTMEN BUDGET MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2009

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 7:30 P.M.

REVISED/APPROVED MINUTES

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

In attendance: R. Marconi, A. Bodner, B. Manners, J. Plock, D. Masters

Guests: Kevin Redmond, Controller, Laurie Scholl, Human Resources Director

Agenda

1. 2009-2010 Overall Items Budget Discussion

Board of Selectmen Meeting

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

J. Plock moved to add an Executive Session at end of budget discussions to discuss Personnel matters, B. Manners seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Operating Transfers

Sewer \$72,750—bond amount that we fund every year; will end in 2012.

Animal Control—we are in a deficit position in this line. We entered a deficit position in 2006. We haven't funded the operational expenses of animal control. Because it's not part of the general fund, it did not get balanced out. K. Redmond recommends funding this deficit over a three-year period and returning it to the general fund. Auditors brought this up and their recommendation was as long as there is a plan to clean this up, it would be an acceptable way to take care of it. Jay Wahlberg brought this up last year and suggested taking money out of fund balance and clean it up. A. Bodner asked whether there would be an advantage to cleaning this up right now. Total amount is \$180,000. Other line item underfunded is reassessment. We could fund deficit position right now and pay off over time and then by the time of the next reassessment it would be funded.

Board requested K. Redmond discuss with BOF next week and ask for recommendation.— animal control. Deficit must be cleared before moving over to the general fund. K. Redmond will check if there is a specific reason that it is set up this way. Check out statutory regulations to see if this item must be set up this way. K. Redmond will discuss reassessment also.

Welcome to Ridgefield budget will be flat. B. Manners said Holiday Trust Fund fundraising was down this year; this will not be a good year.

The Economic Development Commission is looking for \$15,000 –K. Redmond will discuss with the transfer of money with the Board of Finance. The transfer will be for the amount relating to the study; \$12,500.

Golf Maintenance what drives the OT? Don't know – put question out to Tony
Several questions still pending to P&R.
Police can cut uniform budget \$4k; not laundry.

Police maintenance electronics costs are higher— the Chief has indicated that this is a higher priority.
Police town safety & security officer.

Will put together analysis of rental income; utilities & assets how much we are making. At first glance it appears we are not charging enough utilities. VNA is not being charged separate utilities. Will put analysis together.

Highway—snow removal; 145 will not be enough. We are over our budget right now. Town Road Aid is given to town from the state. Phil uses it for material. Question out to Charlie about how much his building maintenance budget can be cut.

Capital Budget

C. Fisher provided information about Venus building. R. Marconi stated there is a safety issue regarding the Ridgefield Playhouse roof; it must be repaired. Cost is \$50,000. B. Manners stated we could put this before voters at the Annual Town Meeting at the Playhouse.

Plan of Conservation and Development is included in General Government.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel matters, and invited Kevin Redmond, Controller, and Laurie Scholl, Human Resources Director, at 8:10 pm. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board exited Executive Session and the Board of Selectmen Meeting was called back to order at 8:50 pm.

The budget is currently at 0% for the Town side; this does not take into consideration the Board of Education budget.

Jan Rifkensen of New Road asked what other things will the Board be looking at? R. Marconi responded that pensions, information technology, Registrars, supplies and Probate are among the things that will be looked at. The budget discussions will continue the first week of March.

John Katz, Ridgebury Road, mentioned the electric bill is astronomical. If every other bulb in the parking lot lights were taken out, this would provide a great savings to the Town. R. Marconi responded that he will take a look at doing that; will have to review with the Police Department for safety reasons.

J. Plock moved and B. Manners seconded the motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 8:55 pm. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Gannon Lionetti