

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

November 5, 2012

Executive Board Attending: David Upton, Susan Hansel, Maury Collins, Edie Drinkwater, Admin. Assist.

Others Attending: Dennis Dellagreca, Barry Tolman, Karen Tolman, Mike Tarr, Rick Lothrop.

The first item was the Fire Department budget for 2013.

Fire Chief, Rick Lothrop outlined specific Warrant Articles including one to purchase a used fire truck. The vehicle being considered is currently in service at the Keene Fire Department. It is intended to be traded in by Keene toward a new vehicle.

Rick has researched this and has secured an option to purchase the trade-in if approved by Town vote in March.

Funds for this purchase are already in the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve so there would be no new tax impact from this purchase. (\$50,000. to purchase the vehicle and \$15,000 to equip.)

Discussion was lengthy regarding the Fire Rescue and emergency first responder needs.

There will be an increase in several areas of the budget to cover these needs.

Equipment, radios, turnout gear, training, wages, general supplies, and all other items needed to support this important service to the Town.

It was also noted that mutual Aid Dispatch will now be a permanent Fire Department expense as the County Tax no longer covers this fee. This department burden began in 2012 when the county eliminated this from their budget.

There was brief discussion regarding the problem of oozing glue on the floor tiles in the Safety Building. It was agreed that this is an item to be in the government building budget.

There was brief discussion of the use of Capital Reserve funds in general. Thoughts shared included the amount of interest earned versus the very low cost for the Town to borrow money when needed.

David suggested that the amounts deposited into the Capital Reserve funds be reduced this year to offset some of the increase in operating budgets.

Rick reported that, during last year, a benefactor provided the Fire Department with the funds to purchase three new AEDs. This year there will be an article to replace three additional AEDs which are outdated.

David asked that Mike Tarr and Rick discuss the formula for allocating the fuel cost for vehicles and equipment within the Highway and Fire Departments.

Both Mike and Rick indicated they had no problems with the formula as it does not change the total cost to the Town and that amount is covered.

Edie noted that, based on the number of complaints coming into the office regularly, there is a reason to address the formula that was agreed to last year.

It was quickly agreed that the formula to allocate diesel bills will be 85% for Highway and 15% for the Fire Department.

The focus now turned to the Highway Department budget.

Mike went through each line item within his regular budget adjusting amounts where he feels more will be needed and reducing or maintaining the current numbers for some items.

Mike discussed the need for the new narrow band radios. The current radios are so old that there is no software to update them to narrow band. They will no longer be legal for use as of January 1, 2013.

Mike will try to purchase the new radios with this year's budget but plans to have a Warrant Article to cover the cost of a repeater for getting the signal needed to operate the radios.

There will be an additional Warrant Article to cover some badly needed road paving.

Several areas have been patched but it has reached a point now that more extensive paving will be necessary. Mike plans to place a \$25,000 article on the Warrant this year and perhaps for the next few years to bring the condition of the Town's paved roads to a much needed improved condition.

On that note Susan opened discussion about the Boat ramp at Granite Lake.

The Risk Manager from LGC (Town's liability carrier) inspected the location and has a few concerns and recommendations.

It was noted that the ramp is badly in need of repair, there is a sharp drop off at water's edge, there is virtually no parking available, and a need for cautionary signage.

Several options were brought up for consideration but no action was taken as there are many details which require more extensive research.

David noted that there should be at least a temporary repair to the ramp.

Susan suggested having the Granite Lake Association come to a meeting with the Select Board to discuss the situation further.

The repeater for the narrow band radios will cost between \$3000.00 and \$5,000.00 depending if there is an area available with electricity. Mike will try to get a closer number on this after further tests are conducted.

Mike continued explaining each remaining item in the budget.

Discussion turned to tree cutting. The concern is over dead or diseased trees that may pose a danger to safe travel along Town roads.

Susan asked that the record be clarified that the Selectmen have not stopped the cutting of trees deemed to be a hazard.

The responsibility has been on the Road Agent to inform the land owner and to request permission to remove the danger.

Susan wanted it confirmed by Mike that the Selectmen have not stopped him from doing this. Mike agreed with the procedure described and that the Selectmen have not stopped this from being completed.

David noted if the land owner refuses to have the tree cut then the Selectmen may become involved in an effort to resolve the issue.

Mike said he would not consider cutting any tree he considers too close the power wires. This would need to be referred to Public Service.

Maury suggested that a "Tree Warden" be appointed.

Maury agreed to go with Mike to talk to the land owners who have trees that have been flagged due to the concern they will fall during a storm or heavy wind.

Maury requested that the Road Equipment Committee develop a report that will be printed in the Town Report. Dennis Dellagrecia, who is on the committee, agreed to take care of that report.

Edie reported that a notice arrived from the State that the Health Officer's appointment expired in April of this year.

They sent forms and have requested that a new Health Officer be selected to receive the State appointment.

David noted that this has been requested during the Hazard Mitigation update as well. David will bring the forms to the next meeting on November 19th.

The Board agreed to meet with members of the Town Buildings Committee on Wednesday November 7th at 2:00 PM. This will be posted along with the November 17th public meeting of the Town Buildings Committee which the Selectmen will all attend.

Arrangements for the Open House were finalized including refreshments.

With nothing further, Maury made a motion to adjourn.

Susan seconded the motion.

The motion then carried by a vote of 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

November 5, 2012

David Upton, Chair

Maury Collins

Susan Hansel