

Minutes of the Budget Hearing/Selectmen's Meeting

9 February 2010

BUDGET HEARING

Members present: Lynn Sweet, Chairman, Stephanie Gray and R. Stephen Leighton.

Notice of this hearing was published in Foster's Daily Democrat on January 27, 2010, and posted at the Post Office, Town Hall and in the Strafford Community Calendar.

Among those attending were Glenn and Sandy Pierce, Paul Stover, Greg Messenger, Mark Messenger, Scott Young, Michael Richards, Ken and Patty Wilder, Robert Durfee (Dubois & King), Robert Sylvia, Gwen and Frank Wilson.

The public hearing was called to order at 6:30 P.M. The purpose of this hearing was to review the proposed budget and certain warrant articles to be voted on at the March 13, 2010 Town Meeting. This year's Town Meeting will be held at the NH Army National Guard Training Center, beginning at 8:30 A.M.

Article 1 is for the election of officers to be held on March 9, 2010 at the Strafford Town Hall.

Article 2 was read. This article requests additional money to be used for the construction of a replacement bridge on the Northwood/Bow Lake Road. It is a supplemental appropriation to be used with the funds raised last year, necessary to complete this project.

Article 3 pertaining to the capital improvements to roads, was read. No questions.

Article 4 was read and briefly discussed. Fire Chief would be appointed directly by the Selectmen. Town appropriations fund the department and a large amount of equipment. This article reinforces compliance with current laws and procedures.

Articles 5 (Fire & Rescue operations) and 6 (lease purchase of Forestry vehicle) were read. No discussion.

Article 7 was read requesting funds for repairs to Fire Engine "E-2". It was clarified that this engine was located at the Crown Point Station.

Article 8 was read requesting an appropriation of \$35,100. for fire fighting equipment. \$33,345. to come from a grant, with the balance of \$1,755. to come from taxation. Paul Stover noted that they have been awarded the grant.

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Article 9 was read pertaining to the Police Department operational budget. A gentleman questioned whether there was any change. It was noted that it is the same budget as last year.

Article 10 and 11 were read, each requesting a police vehicle and equipment. There was discussion regarding combining the two articles into one article requesting the two vehicles and equipment. It was noted that there is \$17,118. in a Capital Reserve Fund towards the purchase.

Article 12 was read asking to create a Capital Reserve Fund for the future revaluation/statistical update of the Town, and to raise \$25,000. to be placed in this fund. This is ½ the funding that will be needed for this project to be done in 2011.

Article 13 was read asking if the Town will vote to take over the Summer maintenance of the portion of Province Road from its intersection with Ricky Nelson Road to its intersection with Route 202A. This article is contingent on the State completing improvements to the road as per agreement with the Town. Mr. Leighton noted some of the work to be done, including rebuilding of the road and replacement of all drainage/culverts.

Article 14 for general operations of the Town was read. No increase.

Article 15 was read. It was a petition article. No discussion.

Article 16 was read. This is a petition article asking "to re-open the closed section of Old Whig Hill Road from its intersection with Sunny Oaks Terrace to the existing pavement at the top of Old Whig Hill Road". It was estimated that there 80+ homes up in that area with only one way in or out in the event of an emergency. The \$81,000. requested for road improvements is to make improvements to the road for passage, without paving.

Article 17 was read.

Gwen Wilson, Patty Wilder and several other residents in attendance stressed their concern over the condition of the fence located in the Bow Lake Grange parking lot. Mike Richards will contact the State to advise that it needs repair/replacement. Pending the State's response, the Board will check further. It may originally have been built with a special appropriation.

Copies of informational forms (i.e. Warrant, Budget and Estimated 2010 Tax Rate) are attached as an addendum to these minutes.

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There being no further questions the public hearing was closed at 6:50 P.M

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Bills and checks for payment were reviewed and signed.

There was discussion regarding Article 10 and 11. Board was in unanimous agreement that they should be combined into one article requesting \$46,000. for the purchase of two police vehicles and equipment, with a withdrawal of \$17,118. to come from the Capital Reserve Fund. This leaves a balance of \$5,882. to come from general taxation.

Progress on receiving and compiling information for the 2009 Year End Report book was discussed. It was noted that they are to be available by March 2nd.

A picture of Austin Hall will be used on the cover.

There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and voted to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.