

Minutes of the Budget Hearing/Selectmen's Meeting
5 February 2013

Budget Hearing

Members present: Stephen Leighton, Chairman, Lynn Sweet and JoAnn Brown

In attendance: James W. Anderson, Herman Groth, Brian Monahan, Greg Messenger, Randy Orvis, Michael Richard, Paul Stover, Scott Young

Notice of the Public Hearing was published in *Foster's Daily Democrat* on January 26, 2013, and posted at the Post Office, Town Hall and on the website.

The Budget Hearing was called to order at 6:04P.M. The purpose of the hearing is to review the proposed budget and certain warrant articles to be voted on at the March 16, 2012 Town Meeting. Town Meeting will commence at 8:30 A.M. at the Strafford School.

R. Stephen Leighton began the proceedings by informing all those present that the overall budget is \$40,356 less than last year's budget.

Warrant Article 1 for the election of officers to be held on March 12, 2012 at the Strafford Town Hall was read.

Voting on the remaining articles will be conducted at Town Meeting on March 16, 2013.

Warrant Article 2 which appropriates funds for the design engineering and replacement of a bridge on First Crown Point Road was read. No discussion followed.

Warrant Article 3 pertaining to capital improvements on Town roads was read. No discussion followed.

Warrant Article 4 was read. It authorizes the hiring of a full time police officer and appropriates funds for salary and benefits.

Warrant Article 5 which appropriates money for the operation and maintenance of the Police Department was read.

Warrant Article 6 authorizes the hiring of a full time paramedic and appropriates funds for salary and benefits.

Warrant Article 7 which appropriates money for the operation and maintenance of the Fire Department and Rescue Squad was read.

Warrant Article 8 was read. It authorizes the withdrawal of monies from the Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Fund for the final payment of a lease to own agreement on an ambulance.

Warrant Article 9 which proposes the appropriation of funds to the Ready Rides Program was read.

Warrant Article 10 for the appropriation for general Town operations was read.

Warrant Article 11 concerning the library was read. It proposes to accept ownership by Quitclaim Deed of the building, fixtures, and the real estate associated with the Hill Library.

Warrant Article 12, submitted by petition and also concerning the library, was read. It authorizes the establishment of a capital reserve fund for the purpose of expansion and improvements to the library.

A question about the salaries for the 2 new positions was raised. The Selectmen explained that the new positions would not start until April 1, 2013 or later, so the budgeted salary amounts reflect $\frac{3}{4}$ of the yearly salary; the proposed positions are currently being filled by part time employees whose salaries are included in the budget. In response to a question about the language of the Warrant Article for the bridge grant from the State, the Selectmen explained that the DRA required the article and budgeting to be written in that manner.

Copies of informational forms (i.e. Warrant, Budget, and Estimated 2012 Tax Rate) are enclosed as an addendum to these minutes.

There being no further questions, Mr. Leighton thanked those in attendance for coming. The Budget Hearing portion of the meeting ended at 6:17.

The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 6:22PM.
Herman Groth, Randy Orvis, and Jim Anderson were in attendance.

Minutes from the January 8, 2012 Selectmen's meeting were read and approved with one correction.

Correspondence was reviewed, discussed, and signed as necessary. Payment of bills and payroll was authorized.

There was a discussion involving Mr. Groth, Mr. Orvis and the Selectmen about Mr. Groth's request for a lot he owns to have its driveway entrance on Mousam Road rather than Parker Mountain Road (Rte. 126). It seemed clear that from the policy concerning Class VI roads that the procedure to address his request would begin with the Selectmen's Office, but there were questions about the actual application process and the order in which requests were to be made. After reviewing RSA 236:9-11, RSA236:14, and RSA 674:41 in trying to determine if the decision should go to the Planning Board, the Selectmen requested that Mr. Groth prepare a letter for the next Selectmen's Meeting (February 19, 2013 at 6:00) presenting compelling information for the necessity of a driveway on Mousam Road as opposed to Parker Mountain Road. They also requested a more detailed map, showing where the building would be located.

A few decisions concerning the annual report were made. In lieu of a request by Mr. Perry to write a legislative update for the annual report the Selectmen decided to include contact information for our State senator and representatives along with Town Officers in the report. They suggested the Town Calendar as an appropriate venue for a legislative update. The Selectmen reviewed and edited the Letter from the Selectmen for the Town Calendar and Annual Report.

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