

10/27/09 Bud Comm

The October meeting of the budget committee was called to order by chairman Chris Hyde at 7:10 in the community room. Members present were, Mike Harris, Frank Whittemore, Tom Jambard, Bob Labednick, Ray Valle selectmen's rep. Peter Band, schoolboard rep. Bill Beauregard, and finance officer Paul Calabria.

The board expressed regrets that Donna had submitted her resignation to accept a position in Florida, but thanked her for her excellent work and wished her well in her new position.

Minutes of the September meeting were discussed clarification was needed to determine who had made the motion for budget guidance and who had seconded the motion. It was determined that Mike had made the motion and Frank had made the second. Paul will make the corrections and forward the minutes for approval next month.

Town report:

Paul reported that expenditures are on track for September, except cost for legal, due to unexpected cost for personnel issues. The contingency line item has about \$30,000 remaining. A major expense from this was a pump replacement on one of the fire trucks, that was not able to be charged to their maintenance line item. Selectmen have notified department heads to hold the line on any expenditures. Revenues are on track after town clerks numbers have been adjusted.

Paul and Troy met with the D.R.A. to set the new tax rate. The new rate will be \$20.70, a \$.21 reduction from last year. Room and meals revenue at \$335,000. \$266,000 stimulus money received for schools. It was not clear exactly how this money is distributed within the school districts. The fund balance is back to 5% which is good news.

Peter discussed repairs to the town hall. The roof and tower are the most pressing items and expected that a warrant article will probably be forthcoming at town meeting for these repairs.

Bob Labednick asked if funds from the conservation commission could be used to offset some of these costs, as this seems to be more important at this time than purchasing more land. This raised a question as to whether their charter would allow for this type of expenditure. Their charter will need to be reviewed to make this determination.

School report:

Bill Beauregard said that the lower level is ready to replace the sheetrock and ceiling tiles that have been removed to get at the mold problem. To date about \$187,000 had been spent on the problem, but total cost cannot yet be determined as the cause has yet to be decided. Evaluation

will have to be made if this is the right time to spend the money to update the electrical and computer wiring because it is totally inadequate to meet the present and future needs .

Bill discussed at length the work load placed on the S.A.U. office. They may well need to address this in next year's budget

New business:

Discussion of the potential of combining the purchasing of consumables for the town and school departments. Bill pointed out that is a multitown problem and the S.A.U. may not have the time to do this now with their lack of a full time business administrator, the mold problem, and developing a plan with the state to resolve the well prpbem. Peter Band said that the town is willing to work with the schools on this. He suggested that perhaps a volunteer committee could be appointed to work on this as there is multiple talent within the town that could study this and make recomendations prior to budget time.

Paul set out the schedule of future meeting dates for budget review, and public hearings leading to town, and school meetings.

A short discussion followed as what we could do to encourage more residents to attend the meetings.

Motion made by Mike Harris ,seconded by Frank Whittemore to adjourn @8:40PM.

Tom Jambard

Clerk