

**New Shoreham Town Council
Budget Meeting/Public Hearing
Town Hall, Old Town Road
Wednesday, April 10, 2013
7:00 p.m.**

Present: First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Kenneth C. Lacoste, Town Councilor Sean McGarry, Town Councilor Norris Pike, Town Councilor Christopher Warfel. Also present was Town Manager Nancy O. Dodge and Finance Director Amy Land. Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

At 7:00 First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett called the budget public hearing, continued from April 8, 2013.

1. Budget Public Hearing/Work Session

Finance Director Amy Land circulated a revised budget with the areas of revenue identified on April 8 added. Reductions were made to the School's request and the overall benefit line (dental was reduced 10%), and a raises of 3% raise for employees in the union and 3.5% for the police union were factored into the new budget. Discussion ensued.

Mr. McGarry moved, seconded by Ms. Gaffett, to reduce administration engineering line from \$15,000 to \$10,000. It had been increased for the highway initiative.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 0

Mr. McGarry moved, seconded by Mr. Pike, to reduce the Old Harbor electrical line by \$10,000 and increase the boat ramp study line by \$10,000. Seconded by Mr. Pike. After discussion, Mr. McGarry withdrew the motion.

Mr. McGarry moved to reduce the Capital/Tax Harbors engine replacement by \$9,000 and add \$9,000 to boat ramp funding, seconded by Mr. Pike.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 0

Ms. Gaffett moved, seconded by Mr. Warfel, to reduce the Administration line by \$3,000 (code updates).

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 0

Mr. Pike moved to add \$17,000 to Administration to fund more hours in the Clerk's office, seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

Aye: 2 (Pike, Lacoste) Nays: 3 (Gaffett, McGarry, Warfel)

Mr. McGarry moved to add \$12,500 to Community Support to fund the Deer Task Force's modified Skidaway plan, seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

After discussion, Mr. McGarry moved to amend his motion to replace "modified Skidaway plan" with "reduction of deer. Mr. Lacoste seconded.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 0

The amended motion, to add \$12,500 to Community Support to fund the Deer Task Force's reduction of deer, was voted:

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 0

Ms. Gaffett moved, seconded by Mr. Lacoste, to add \$300 to Community Support for additional funding for South Shore Mental Health.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 0

Mr. Warfel moved, seconded by Mr. Pike, to add \$500 to Washington County Regional Planning Council's funding for a total of \$1,500.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 0

Mr. Warfel moved, seconded by Mr. Pike, to add \$49,000 for a new compactor at the Transfer station.

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Lacoste, Pike, Warfel) Recuse: 1 (McGarry)

Ms. Gaffett moves to add \$7,000 for a Firetide upgrade to for a total of \$21,000, seconded by Mr. Pike

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 0

Mr. Lacoste moved to add \$14,000 to the capital budget for software in the Recreation Department, which includes installation and training, seconded by McGarry

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 0

Councilor Pike moved to include \$10,000 in this year's budget for air conditioning the server room, seconded by Councilor Lacoste.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 0

Mr. Pike moved to allocate an additional \$15,000 to be added to the \$35,000 for a total of \$50,000 to replace the cabin chase Rescue I. Seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 0

Ms. Gaffett moved to reduce Library by \$7,500 because the second book drop is not needed, seconded by Mr. Warfel.

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike) Nays: 1 (Warfel)

Mr. Warfel moved to add \$1,000 to rewire upstairs of rescue barn to divide it into two or three circuits and to convert the bulbs to LED, seconded by Mr. Pike.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 0

Mr. McGarry moved to increase Recreation Department expense line by \$22,424 and increase Recreation revenues by \$25,000 to add a position as described in the Recreation Department's recommendation and also to increase adult programming with that position, a net savings of \$2,576. The motion was seconded for discussion by Mr. Pike.

Ayes: 1 (McGarry) Nays: 4 (Gaffett, Lacoste, Pike, Warfel)

With the motion defeated, \$5,788 remains unallocated.

Mr. Pike moved to add the remaining fund excess to contingency, seconded by Mr. Warfel.

- Mr. Lacoste prefers to put it into community support rather than contingency. Discussion.

Ayes: 1 (McGarry) Nays: 4 (Gaffett, Lacoste, Pike, Warfel)

Ms. Gaffett moved to give to the remaining funds to (\$5,788) to the Block Island Early Learning Center, seconded by Mr. Pike.

Ayes: 3 (Gaffett, McGarry, Pike) Nays: 2 (Lacoste, Warfel)

Mr. McGarry moved to include an infrastructure improvement bond on the Financial Town Meeting Warrant to include: two Ocean Avenue pump station upgrades for \$316,000; \$120,000 for two SCADA installations; \$250,000 for force main replacement; \$239,340 for the beach pavilion renovation; also included in the bond is the 2014 through 2017 Planning Board capital budget of \$1,523,076 although without \$500,000 for the fire truck in 2017 and adding \$400,000 for solar panels at the School for a total of \$2,348,416, which carries an annual expense of \$171,434.36. If \$253,982 is removed from the capital budget it would create \$78,443 in total savings. And also to level fund the School's budget, reducing their budget by \$71,432 thereby creating a savings of \$153,980 savings and further to reduce the mil rate to reflect saving. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pike.

Ayes: 1 (McGarry) Nays: 4 (Gaffett, Lacoste, Pike, Warfel)

Discussion: The Council members spoke in support of the concept of bonding capital expenses. Some were opposed to bonding sewer expenses townwide, or level funding the school, and there was discussion that removing the capital budget from the 4% cap would have unintended consequences on future operational and bonding expenses. The components of Mr. McGarry's motion were discussed and debated at length. The Council agreed to continue the process and work with the Planning Board with the goal of putting a capital bond before the voters this fall.

Ms. Gaffett moved that budget as developed tonight be put forward for public hearing and adoption on Monday, seconded by Mr. Warfel.

Ms. Gaffett said passing the motion would not preclude discussing warrant items on Monday.

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Lacoste, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 1 (McGarry)

At 11:00 a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lacoste and seconded by Mr. Pike.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 0

Minutes approved June 5, 2013

Fiona Fitzpatrick
Town Clerk