

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY APRIL 26, 2012

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:05pm by Budget Committee Chairperson Mr. Vadenais.

ROLL CALL 7:05pm: Present were Mrs. Bartomioli, Mrs. Nadeau, Mr. Puccetti, Mr. Vadenais, Ms. Vallee

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of the April 12th meeting was made by Ms. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Puccetti and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Budget Committee began the review of the Capital Budget requests with the following discussion:

Highway Department:

Mr. Vadenais stated that when the committee met with Mr. Pendergast

he was unsure of whether we need a used vac/truck for catch basin clearing @ \$100,000-it might be better to lease one so that it doesn't sit and rot during the months it is not needed.

Ms. Vallee asked if it could be included in the shared vehicle usage agreement between neighboring communities and asked if anyone knew the status/cost of the agreement.

Town Administrator Ms. Hamilton was present and stated that the towns of North Smithfield, Burrillville, Gloucester, & Smithfield have an agreement to share equipment-a shared rate scale has been established.

Action item: Ms. Vallee is going to find out what the rates are for the vehicles leased by the state.

Mr. Vadenais noted that the 5 year plan for street overlay is \$3,000,000 and for 2013 the amount is \$540,000. He noted that the town may need a multi-million dollar bond to cover all of the needs being requested.

Mr. Pucetti asked if the committee could obtain a plan of the streets which will be repaved in 2013.

Action item: Mr. Vadenais will ask Mr. Pendergast for a street repaving plan and for an update on the lease or purchase of the

vac/truck.

Police Department:

Ms. Nadeau noted that the department is asking for \$45,631 for “emergency repairs” and said that when the committee toured the facility earlier in April it appeared to be in pretty bad shape. It seems that \$45,631 would not cover much. Ms. Nadeau asked Ms. Hamilton for an update re: the committee formed to explore the costs of a new building which would house the Police Department and all of the Municipal offices.

Ms. Hamilton responded that it is a 3-5 year plan and will take time to put together.

The Police Department is also requesting funds for 3 new cruisers; 8 desktop computers; and firearms.

Action item: Mr. Vadenais is going to ask Chief Reynolds for more information re: the computers and firearms.

Recommendation for the Police Department: The committee unanimously agreed to recommend \$45,631 for Emergency Repairs and \$80,000 for the purchase of 2 new cruisers.

Q Mr. Puccetti: Is the town getting new computers?

A Mr. Silvia: Yes and we will talk to the School Department I.T. person before making a purchase.

Parks & Recreation:

Recommendation for Parks & Rec: The committee unanimously agreed to recommend \$15,000 for upgrades to Scouters Hall and \$50,000 for the purchase of a truck with a plow and sander.

Acton item: Mr. Vadenais is going to ask Mr. Pendergast for more details about the demolition of the water building at Pacheco Park and the electrical box at the NSHS tennis court.

EMA:

Mr. Vadenais stated that he has already emailed Mr. Branconnier to make sure that the \$57,891 requested for the purchase of radios will be matched by an additional \$57,891 from a federal grant.

Ms. Vallee stated that she feels that the Fire Department should buy their own radios from their budget.

Mr. Vadenais said that the radios are for emergency use only-when there is an emergency in the town all the departments are tied into the same communication system.

The committee feels that we need more information-what's the minimum number of radios needed and is the Fire Department able to reimburse the town from their own budget?

Town Administrator's Capital Budget Requests:

Recommendation for the Town Administrator's requests: The committee unanimously agreed to recommend \$10,000 for Town Hall exterior painting.

Action item: Mr. Vadenais will request more information re: \$5,000 furniture purchase.

Finance Department:

The Finance Department is requesting \$100,000 for a new Financial System.

Mr. Silvia explained that the current system is a "dinosaur". At the present time the Finance Department has no information about the type of system they would like to purchase or what the system will actually cost. Additionally the department will need to determine whether the existing computers will be able to operate a new software program.

Q Mr. Puccetti: With so many unknowns is this even going to be applicable for 2013?

A Mr. Silvia: yes, we would like to have money available for a new financial system.

Action item: Mr. Silvia will get back to us with more detailed information on a new financial system.

School Department:

Recommendation: The committee unanimously agreed to recommend \$45,000 for the purchase of a box truck.

Further discussion of the Capital requests will continue at our next meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday May 9th at 7:00pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm was made by Mr. Puccetti, seconded by Ms.Nadeau and unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Merrie Nadeau