

Town of Lisbon, NH

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Board of Selectmen Minutes 02/06/2012

Town of Lisbon

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: February 6, 2012

Selectmen Present: Ruth Robar (RAR), Mike Carver (MC)

Staff Present: Regan Pride (RP), Kevin Clement (KC), Joe Tavernier (JT), Jody Gagnon (JG), Scott McKinley (SM).

RAR opened the meeting at 6:00 pm

Town Administrator RP made opening remarks about the overall budget. He that the BOS authorized and included a COLA (cost of living adjustment) increase of 2.5% to employee wages in all departments. The BOS goal was to propose a budget that allows continuation of the current level of services in as efficient a manner as possible. The BOS implemented a change to the employee health insurance plan which increased employee copay amounts and deductible amounts. This resulted in a slight decrease in the premiums, whereas the plan offered in 2011 would have had a 12.5% increase in premiums. Overall the proposed budget represents an increase of \$58,897 over the 2011 proposed budget. The primary factors in the increase include payments for loans approved in 2011, the aforementioned wage increase, an increase in the employer contribution to the NH Retirement System, and increases in the cost of fuels.

RP read through the budget figures for each town department or function. Questions from the audience were addressed by RP, the Selectmen, and town department heads. (Attached)

Q: Why is there an increase in the Financial Admin department when the actual expenditure in 2011 was below the budget amount by more than \$8,000?

A: The surplus in this line was more like \$6,200. Money was added in the following areas: a 2.5% wage increase for the bookkeeper, auditing & accounting for an audit of the town clerk's office after the election, software support, and postage.

Q: Can more money be put into the Life Squad Ambulance CRF? And what about other equipment CRF's? A resident also suggested that the town might want to consider obtaining an additional second-hand ambulance, which could be used for patient transfers, leaving the primary vehicle free to respond to calls.

A: There is a proposed warrant article to create a Revolving Fund for equipment including ambulances for the Life Squad. We propose to put 25% of the revenue generated by the ambulance service into this fund. Beyond that, the current philosophy is to borrow for major expenses rather than putting money into CRF's which are receiving very little interest these days.

A resident suggested that the town should aggressively pursue forming resource sharing agreements with neighboring towns so that we don't all have to endure large expenses for things like graders, dump trucks, etc. KC (Kevin Clement) said that such things could possibly be done but would have to be very carefully coordinated and administered.

Q: What is the plan for road paving this year?

A: A warrant article proposes to raise \$100,000 for paving, and the plan is to do as much as possible on Water Street.

A resident suggested that the town plan to do 1 mile of in-town road and 1 mile of outer roads per year. KC stated that a 10 year maintenance interval would be a good program, and estimates that \$200,000 for paving would not necessarily cover all that, but would be a good starting point

Q: What is the net cost of the transfer station why is it not self-supporting?

A: Roughly \$65,000 per year must be raised by taxation for the transfer station each year. Most likely the price of dump bags would have to be raised to make it break even.

Q: How many employees are there at the transfer station?

A: Once a new supervisor is hired, there will be 2 full time employees, and one alternate to cover vacations, etc.

A resident stated that he felt that the towns of Lyman and Landaff should pay more toward the operation of the transfer station, because the town of Lisbon carries all the administrative costs, and handles all the maintenance. He suggested each town pay a third of the operating budget.

The Parks and Recreation budget was discussed. Toby Knighton distributed information about the Lions Club pool construction

project. The club proposes expanded operating hours for the new pool, and requests additional funding for life guards.

Q: Is there any plan to revive the summer recreation program? A: Not at this time.

Q: Is there a fee charged for using the pool?

A: Yes, it's \$15 per child for the summer season. The club is not yet settled on recommended fees for adult/recreational swimming.

Library Budget: The library trustees intend to have repairs made to the roof of the library building out of the regular budget funds. It was pointed out that the library maintenance is part of the library budget and not part of the town government buildings budget.

RP read through the list of proposed warrant articles (attached)

Q: Do taxes get paid on foreclosed properties?

A: Most, but not all. Usually banks do pay once they take possession of a building.

Q: What is the BOS position on the pool project article?

A: The board has not decided yet, but realizes they must take a position on a recommendation.

Q: Will the pool still be built if this article is defeated? A: (Toby Knighton) It probably will.

Buck Ridge Road petition:

Q: How many houses are on this road?

A: 2 completed, and about 5 or 6 lots total.

Q: Is the road built to town specs?

A: (KC) Yes it is. I don't look forward to taking on additional roads due to budget constraints, but is up to the will of the voters.

Petition to eliminate the town administrator position:

Much discussion ensued on this warrant article. The select board has taken an action item to get legal opinion on the article.

RAR moved to adjourn. MC 2nd.

Hearing adjourned at 8:40pm.