



**Town of Dublin**  
**Budget Committee Meeting Minutes**  
January 15, 2019

**Present:** Steve Baldwin, Nancy Campbell, Charlie Champagne (Chair), Judy Knapp, Sturdy Thomas (Selectman's Representative) and Susie Vogel

**Absent:** Bill Gurney

**Also present:** Brian Barden, Sherry Miller (Town Administrator), Allan Pinney, Roger Trempe (Road Agent) and Dave Whitney

Meeting called to order by Charlie Champagne at 7:00 pm.

Minutes from January 8, 2019 were moved, seconded and approved as amended.

Charlie explained that Dave Whitney and Brian Barden had been invited to the meeting to discuss options for the Highway department loader (Komatsu). The Budget Committee wants all the information we can get as to the feasibility of replacing new vs. maintaining existing equipment in order to come up with the best decision *re* the loader.

Dave explained he had worked for the Town of Dublin highway department in the early 80s and had been working with equipment all his life. The Komatsu loader is a 2002, has 10,130 hours with about 1200-1500 idle hours and, he estimated that based on its age and hours, is used about 12 hours/week. He feels repair of the problems with the loader are routine maintenance. He feels the ride control can be recharged or rebuilt for \$1,840 in parts plus labor. Dave estimates \$5,547 for parts and labor to weld the bucket and replace pins and bushings. You should have an AC person look at the AC. The cost to repair/replace the windshield would be minimal. With the repairs you would probably get 5 more years out of the vehicle.

Sturdy reported that it would be \$13,000 to fix the loader. It would also be beneficial to have another piece of equipment to plow roads or during other critical situations, e.g., the summer storm, therefore, it would be prudent to have two separate loaders.

Brian felt it was time for a new loader. It made sense to get rid of the Recycling loader (Caterpillar), which belongs to the Highway department, while it still had some value, the Komatsu is used a lot and the Town won't get 20,000 hours out of it. The Highway department had saved the Town money for 30 plus years through careful equipment purchases.

Roger felt, that if we retained the Komatsu loader, the maintenance budget would have to be increased for repairs, and that it made sense to move the Komatsu to light duty. A new loader would come with a warranty and when there was a bad storm a new machine would be ready to go. Roger also reported that a certified CAT mechanic had looked at the AC and the accumulator for the ride was gone.

Steve spoke to a Komatsu dealer (Anderson Equipment) who estimated that parts to fix the problems would be \$5,964 plus labor at \$85/hour (includes the ride control, the bucket and the dog bone lift). AC should be looked at by an AC person, perhaps only the glass in the windshield needed replacing.

Continued review of and vote on draft warrant articles:

1. **Article 8-Loader for Highway Department – \$148,615** with \$10,000 coming from trading in the current loader at the Recycling Center and withdrawing \$25,000 from the Recycling Fund to purchase the Highway Department loader for the Recycling Center. The balance (\$113,615) will come from the Heavy Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. This is the worst case scenario. The BOS hope to find a gently used vehicle to reduce the cost. Motion by Sturdy, seconded by Charlie to recommend. Discussion followed.

Sturdy explained the replacement was part of the Capital Improvements plan, that minimal repairs would be done to the Highway Department loader (Komatsu) if it went to the Recycling Center (windshield replacement and seat) and the \$10,000 trade-in value for Recycling Center loader (Caterpillar) came from an inspection by a John Deere dealer. Nancy questioned whether or not we would be pulling too much money out of the reserve fund because in the next 5-7 years, the plan has the Town replacing two 6-wheel dump trucks. Sturdy reiterated that the Heavy Equipment Highway fund was under funded anyway.

Motion to recommend failed 1-6 – Not Recommended. Because the motion failed, Charlie suggested that the BOS come up with maintenance numbers to repair both loaders to include in the operating budget or as a separate warrant article.

2. **Article 9-Highway Garage study – \$10,000** to complete a study and prepare plans for improvements to the Highway barn and facility to come from taxes. Motion by Judy, seconded by Sturdy to recommend; approved 7-0. Recommended.
3. **Article 10-Fire Department self-contained breathing apparatus – \$84,710** with \$84,710 coming from the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Motion by Sturdy, seconded by Judy to recommend; approved 7-0-Recommended.
4. **Article 11-Heating System for Post Office building-\$16,700** with \$16,700 coming from the Town Buildings Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. This figure includes the cost of installing propane lines and tank or a new oil tank. Motion by Sturdy, seconded by Charlie to recommend; approved 7-0-Recommended

5. **Article 12-Replace Library Carpet – \$15,000** with \$15,000 coming from the Library Major Maintenance & Repair Capital Reserve Fund. Motion by Judy, seconded by Sturdy to recommend. Nancy asked if the Library has money to fund this. Charlie felt this was not essential. Motion failed 1-6- Not Recommended.
6. **Article 13-Paint Library Function Room- \$2,500** with \$2,500 coming from the Library Major Maintenance & Repair Capital Reserve Fund. Motion by Judy, seconded by Charlie to recommend. Motion failed 1-6-Not Recommended.
7. **Article 14-Purchase Cemetery lawn and garden tractor-\$3,500** coming from taxation. Motion by Sturdy, seconded by Judy to recommend; approved 6-0-1 (abstain)-Recommended.
8. **Article 15-Capital Reserve Funds contribution – \$350,000** coming from taxation. The BOS feels this amount is adequate for 2019, but will have to be increased in future years, particularly for road and bridge projects. Concerns expressed by Charlie were the special tax assessment of \$225,000 which made the tax impact much greater than previous years, bad timing because of that increase and there will no reserve to help fund this article. He suggested eliminating \$70,000 for Fire Equipment and \$25,000 for Bridge Repair/replacement, fund Road Construction at \$144,000, Police Cruiser at \$15,000 and Heavy Highway Equipment at \$35,000. Sturdy and Judy felt this was responsible budgeting. Sturdy will take the BudCom concerns back to the BOS to discuss. Sturdy said that the BOS will have actual fund balances when the tax rate is set. Nancy asked if a larger Overlay would be needed because of new assessments (answer is unknown). Nancy also asked how taxes came in and it was reported that they came in the same as previous years. Steve was concerned with the effect the proposed school funding formula would have on Dublin's tax rate if passed. Voted table to 1/22 meeting.
9. **Article 16-Dublin Advocate – \$4,000** Motion by Judy, seconded by Nancy to recommend, approved 7-0-Recommended.
10. **Article 17-Health and Welfare Agencies-\$6,371-** to fund certain health and welfare agencies that have a public purpose. This would come from taxation. Sturdy reported that Hundred Nights Shelter had submitted a request but it didn't meet the deadline. There is a possibility that they could submit a petition article. Motion by Nancy to recommend, seconded by Sturdy. Motion failed 1-6- Not Recommended.
11. **Article 18-Expendable Trust Funds contributions-\$7,400** for Revaluation and Master Plan funds, coming from taxation. Motion to recommend by Judy, seconded by Sturdy; approved 7-0-Recommended.
12. **Article 19-Cemetery Perpetual Care Trust Fund addition-\$825** coming from the unassigned fund balance. Motion to recommend by Sturdy, seconded by Judy; approved 7-0-Recommended.

Sturdy reported that the BOS had appointed a new Recreation Committee, consisting of June Brening, Neil Cotoni, Megan Suokko and Tom Warren. This mean \$440 needs to be added to the Recreation Committee budget as follows: \$35 under Halloween Party; \$220 under Special Events for a softball game (\$185); and publicity (\$35). Judy questioned whether the \$35 for Halloween candy was a Recreation Committee activity and expense or was a Dublin Community Center activity.

Sturdy also reported that the Memorial Day budget needs to add \$185 for the Recreation Committee to buy hot dogs for Memorial Day.

All electricity budgets were increased by 10%.

The next meeting will be January 22, 2019 at 7 pm. The agenda includes voting on the Capital Reserve article, review and voting on the operating budget and 4th quarter expense and revenue review. Since there is a Supervisors of the Checklist meeting scheduled for the conference room at the same time, the Budget Committee meeting will be elsewhere in Town Hall. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Campbell, Co-Secretary