

DUBLIN BUDGET COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2020

Present: Steve Baldwin, Nancy Campbell, Charlie Champagne (Chairman), Dale Gabel, (Selectmen's Representative) Bill Gurney, Judy Knapp and Susie Vogel

Also Present: Sherry Miller, Allan Pinney and Beth Pinney

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Champagne.

Minutes from the December 17, 2019 were approved as amended.

Before the review and voting on departmental budgets and warrant articles began, Dale reported on the status of the 2000 Mack truck. \$50,000 has been encumbered to fix the truck. The frame is not bent, however due to corrosion, the frame is getting soft and bends and flexes. Two estimates were received. It is expected these repairs will extend the life of the truck to 2035, instead of 2025. The truck is at Stateline, being repaired and it should be done around the end of January. As a result, the Capital Reserve warrant article has been reduced by \$50,000 to **\$262,408**. Judy asked why the Capital Improvement Plan had different dollar figures for the 2 6-wheel Macks- the "Actual or Est'd Cost" figure was the estimated cost of a replacement when the item was put on the CIP. The "Future Cost" figure is the "estimated current replacement cost" updated 6 years prior to the anticipated replacement date. The #3 6-wheel "Future Cost" figure will be updated in 2021.

Dale also reported that the compensation plan includes a longevity increase for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and part-time highway department employees. On January 20th at the Community Center there will be "Coffee with a cop". A question was raised about whether or not the Town has to pay a rental fee to the center. This will be checked out. The new cruiser is finally here and it is a 2020 model. A contingent offer has been made to a candidate for the police officer position and background investigations are happening.

Dale gave the Budget Committee an overview of the board's operating budget. The budget is up from the 2019 budget by \$176,000 (8.8%). This consists of .5% for legal expenses; 1.2% for personnel expenses (mostly workmen's compensation and health insurance); .7% for ambulance; 2.9% for roads (chip sealing); .9% for Library computer and basement work, Cemetery wall and Post Office steps and railing); 1% for payroll adjustments for Library and fire personnel; 1% COLA and .6% miscellaneous.

Charlie was concerned about the Town's website and that it is not user friendly. The website will be looked at.

The following warrant articles were reviewed, but voting will not happen until the BudCom has seen the wording of the articles:

1. **Broadband**- \$1.3 million- The annual payments on the 20-year bond will come from monthly user fees (maximum of \$11.50 per month) with any shortfall being paid by Consolidated Communications. No town funds will be used for the bond repayment. The only possible liability to the town would occur if Consolidated Communications entered bankruptcy, and no other company took over the debt, prior to the fulfillment of the bond. There will be an informational meeting on February 15th at the Community Center.
2. **Mud Pond Dam**-No article for this. The dam has been open and the water level has not changed. The dam will be open for a year to see if there are changes in the water level. The people at MacDowell have been notified and they don't have a problem with this. The Conservation Commission did not notice any change.
3. **Civil War Monument moving**- **\$27,475**-this figure now includes costs for cleaning, tree removal and landscaping.

4. **Capital Reserve**-\$262,000 (discussed previously).
5. **Solar exemption**-No change proposed in 2020; more study is needed.

Review and voting on operating budget by departments:

Executive: Judy moved and Charlie seconded a motion to approve the **Executive** budget at \$124,846. Approved 6-0-1 abstain (Nancy)

Elections: Bill moved and Susie seconded a motion to approve the **Election** budget at \$9,479 Approved 6-0-1 abstain (Judy).

Financial Administration: Charlie moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve the **Financial Administration** budget at \$93,558. Nancy asked if the printer, monitor and stand-up desk were estimates; the printer is, but the other items have no estimates. Nancy asked if any thought had been given to moving the office downstairs because of lack of space with the present office. It was reported that this had been looked at and the incumbent was not receptive to moving. Failed 3-4; not recommended.

Revaluation: Nancy moved and Judy seconded a motion to approve the **Revaluation** line at \$20,285 Approved 7-0.

Legal: Charlie moved and Judy seconded a motion to approve the **Legal** budget at \$41,500. Approved 7-0.

Personnel Administration: Nancy moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve the **Personnel Administration** budget at \$240,815. Approved 7-0.

Planning and Zoning: Bill moved and Susie seconded a motion to approve the **Planning and Zoning** budget at \$7,138. Approved 7-0.

General Government Buildings: Susie moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve the **General Government Buildings** budget at \$30,911. Nancy asked if there was an estimate for the counter outside the Town Clerk's office-not yet. Nancy asked what the estimate was for the Post Office railing and ramp-\$5,000. Approved 6-1.

Cemetery: Charlie moved and Dale seconded a motion to approve the **Cemetery** budget at \$27,313. Discussion on including the wall repair in the operating budget. Failed 3-3-1 abstain (Nancy). Not recommended.

Insurance: Charlie moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve the **Insurance** budget at \$32,976. Approved 7-0.

Advertising & Regional Associations: Charlie moved and Judy seconded a motion to approve the **Advertising & Regional Associations** budget at \$3,385. Approved 7-0.

Other General Govt.: Charlie moved and Dale seconded a motion to approve the **Other General Government** budget at \$34,251. Question about the phone line being more than 2019-this now includes the Town Clerk phone. Question about the IT contract going out to bid-it wasn't done. Judy felt this should be done if other departments have to follow that policy. Approved 7-0.

Building Inspection: Charlie moved and Judy seconded a motion to approve the **Building Inspection** budget at \$20,434. Steve questioned the need for new code books (the building code as changed). It was explained that the State of NH requires every town to have a copy the books. Approved 6-1.

Emergency Management: Charlie moved and Judy seconded a motion to approve the **Emergency Management** budget at \$9,053. Approved 7-0.

Street Lighting: Charlie moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve the **Street Lighting** budget at \$10,200. Approved 7-0.

Health Administration: Charlie moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve the **Health Administration** budget at \$42.00. Approved 7-0.

Welfare Administration: Charlie moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve the **Welfare Administration** budget at \$17,813. Approved 7-0.

Parks and Recreation: Bill moved and Nancy seconded a motion to approve the **Parks and Recreation** budget at \$3,345. Judy questioned why nothing had been spent out of the line item for the Halloween party the Halloween party-the town had not received a bill. Approved 7-0.

Summer Playground: Charlie moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve the **Summer Playground** budget at \$21,241. Nancy questioned why the director was not getting a longevity raise since everyone else did. Motion tabled until the Selectboard discuss the issue.

Memorial Day: Charlie moved and Nancy seconded a motion to approve the **Memorial Day** budget at \$1,685. Approved 7-0.

Conservation Commission: Charlie moved and Bill seconded a motion to approve the **Conservation Commission** budget at \$4,454. Discussion about the \$300 increase in the invasive control line when the Conservation Commission did not spend that money in 2019 and the money will go into their conservation fund. Judy moved and Bill seconded a motion to fund the invasive control line at \$2,000. Approved 5-2. Motion by Bill and seconded by Susie to approve the **Conservation Commission** budget at \$4,154. Approved 6-1.

Other business:

Budget Committee annual report was reviewed and editorial changes made. Charlie will submit an article for *The Advocate* re the budget.

Dale reported that the other 6-wheel truck (#3) is out of service because of its clutch. Budget Committee members complained about the conditions of the roads. Dale will mention this to Roger.

Charlie will not be running for re-election in 2020.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7 p.m. to continue budget review for those budgets not voted on yet, specifically **Police, Fire, Highway, Solid Waste, Summer Playground and Library** departments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Campbell, Co- Secretary