

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for Budget Review Meeting
February 13, 2017; 6:30 pm
Municipal Building

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Jeffrey Kessler, Chairman; Todd Fratzel, Vice Chairman; David Hoyt, William Wilmot, John Hooper II

STAFF PRESENT: Hunter Rieseberg, Town Manager; Paul Brown, Finance Director; Larry Wiggins, Director Public Works Department; Bill Scanlon, Highway Superintendent; Arnold Greenleaf, Superintendent of Waste Water Treatment Plant

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Bert Spaulding, Sr.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Kessler called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL:
Newport Public Works Department

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility

The Board of Selectmen addressed Mr. Greenleaf and asked him for his review. He stated the budget was basically a flat line budget and no Capital Items were being requested in fiscal year 2017-2018. No Capital Items would be requested until they knew what they'd do with the upgrade. Chairman Kessler asked if there were questions from the Board. Board members asked questions on:

- Fuel (oil and propane)
- Chemical Supplies (current fiscal year)
- Preventative maintenance
- A request to explain Toxicity Tests
- Monitor Well Testing

All questions were answered by Mr. Greenleaf and Mr. Wiggins.

Chairman Kessler asked Mr. Green leaf for an update on the upgrade. Mr. Greenleaf stated that pilots were tested in November 2016 and another testing should be done (outside firm) mid-February 2017.

Chairman Kessler thanked Mr. Greenleaf for attending the meeting.

Mr. Greenleaf left the meeting at 6:48 pm.

II. Highway Department

Chairman Kessler addressed Mr. Scanlon concerning his budget. He had not seen it prior to the meeting. He had no questions. Mr. Wiggins stated he had made reductions to several (8) line items; he tried to be a "lean" as he could. Board members asked questions on the following:

- The number of part-time laborers - Part-time laborers should read per diem. Mr. Wiggins explained the use of per diems for the Board.

- ❖ Overtime. Mr. Scanlon and Mr. Wiggins answered all questions.
- ❖ Radio and radio maintenance. Mr. Wiggins explained there had not been a replacement of his base unit when the Town did the major radio upgrade in 2016. The Board and Mr. Wiggins discussed this line item further.
- ❖ Mowing (roadside)

Mr. Spaulding, Sr. stated the Japanese Knot Weed that the Town was mowing was an invasive species. His suggestion was to not cut it. He explained that VT had a program (using chemicals) to eradicate it. Mr. Spaulding, Sr. had an informational sheet concerning the program. He was asked to submit it to Town Manager Rieseberg.

- ❖ Sidewalk tractor
- ❖ Winter Road Maintenance. Updated dollar amounts would be given to Selectmen
- ❖ Trucking
- ❖ Salt and sand
- ❖ Equipment maintenance
- ❖ Equipment
- ❖ Asked for revised maintenance cost listings
- ❖ Trackless

Mr. Scanlon was asked if his department had had difficulties plowing during the recent snowstorms. Mr. Scanlon gave the status (number) and experience of his drivers. He explained to the BOS and took full responsibility. Selectman Fratzel complained about the poor plowing. He told Mr. Scanlon and Mr. Wiggins the responsibility was theirs.

Mr. Bert Spaulding, Sr. suggested that the Highway Department pay per diem drivers (experienced) more money. Chairman Kessler asked that Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Scanlon present a new plan to the Town Manager.

- ❖ Covered bridges (monitoring)
- ❖ Capital Outlay denials
- ❖ Roof repair-awaiting information from Building Studies
- ❖ Coon Brook Bridge-separate warrant article
- ❖ Road paving

Mr. Scanlon left the meeting at 7:52 pm.

III. Public Works

- Personnel
- In-house versus out-sourcing repairs
- Radio maintenance/replacement of base unit at PWD
- Monitoring wells
- Ash landfill-future expense for firing range?

IV. Water Department

- ✓ Overtime. Finance Director Brown to check the dollar amounts.
- ✓ Taxes to Unity
- ✓ Chemicals
- ✓ Treatment
- ✓ Projects
- ✓ Gilman Pond upgrade
- ✓ Topography of Gilman Pond-discussion of sonar testing while ice is on the pond was done

V. **Sewer Fund**

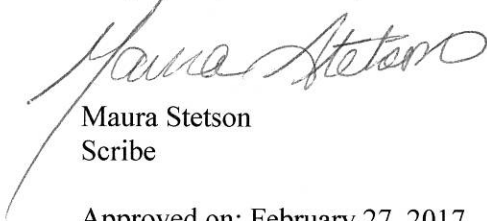
There were no questions on the Sewer Fund

There being no further business, on a motion by Selectman Fratzel, seconded by Selectman Wilmot; *the Board voted to adjourn at 8:38 pm. The motion passed 5-0-0.*

The Board entered into a non-meeting after adjournment.

The next Budget Review meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maura Stetson
Scribe

Approved on: February 27, 2017