

**TOWN OF DIXFIELD
BUDGET MEETING 2016-2017 MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016
LUDDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Attendance

Selectmen: Dana Whittemore, Malcolm Gill, Norman Mitchell, Eugene Skibitsky, Town Mgr. Carlo Puiia. Hart Daley came in to meeting at 5:40.

Finance Committee: Scott Dennett (Chair), Eric Therriault, Cathy Dorion, Anthony Bucci, Sharon Gilsleider, Aaron Perrault, and Denise Newman.

Public: Dan McKay, Mr. and Mrs. Randy Glover, Peter Holman, Leo Jolin and, Norine Clarke, WVACTv.

1. Vice Chairman Dana Whittemore called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Agenda adjustments: None

1. Dept. #5- Library: Amended Request

TM Puiia re-visited the areas of the budget that had been questioned. The cleaning service (J and M) contract is for \$75 per week for a yearly total of \$3900. Canton Point Technologies budget is \$800 for computer repairs which is not a contract. The contract for the copier is \$350 for a new total of \$5050. Chief Dennett has checked the sprinkler system and there is no need for repairs making a new final total of \$145,074. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to amend the previously voted on amount to the new total. Mr. Whittemore seconded and the vote was 5-0

1. Dept. #3 – Public Works

Foreman Glover was on hand for questions. Ms. Newman asked if there was a plan to hire a new director and TM Puiia said no, that the working foreman system is working well and they had a spare that worked through the winter season. Mr. Whittemore asked about the rental line and was told it included things like rollers and jackhammers. Mr. Glover explained that gravel will be needed on the Porter Rd and on the Valley Rd. where there needs to be a new culvert. There is also work to be done at the top of Severy Hill. Contracted Services showed an increase because of the house demolished on High St. and there may be one needed at the corner of Mill and Third St. Phone service is more because they are waiting for an old contract to run out. The difference in Winter Wages is due to the spare. The unspent training and development money will be soon spent as these classes are offered in the Spring months. Mr. Glover said that the work done and money saved in this year's budget was due to a good crew working together. The Selectmen all agreed that they had heard from many satisfied citizens. Mr. Mitchell made a motion to raise \$482,978 for Public Works and Mr. Whittemore seconded. All were in

favor.

1. Dept. #10 – Grounds Mr. Glover continued with the discussion of the Grounds budget and said that they have already purchased special material to replace the sides of the ice rink. They are trying to put McGouldrick Park back together again and there is much to do. There is some money left in the “tangible benefits” account from Patriots that could be used for playground equipment. The little building needs a new roof and door and the rink lights are in need of repair. There is also a need for tree removal. Mr. Whittemore made a motion for \$31,626 which was seconded by Mr. Skibitsky. All were in favor.
2. Dept. #15- Reserves Mr. Glover reported on the need for the sidewalk funds. The ramp on to Weld St. from North St. is in the wrong place and there is a utility pole in the way, also, continuing up Weld St. to the Cemetery, the sidewalk is concrete covered with asphalt and it is disintegrating and needs to be torn out. There is also no curbing on that section. Mr. Glover had Morgan Concrete price these as two jobs. Mr. Skibitsky also noted that some of this is the responsibility of the contractors who worked on North ST.

Another line on this budget is the Revaluation of the town which is now at 110%. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to raise \$294,572 with any extra to be put in the revaluation account. Mr. Gill seconded and all were in favor.

1. Dept. #16 – Debt Service TM Puiia asked that those attending remove line 67 for \$6077 which was placed there in error. The correct total is now \$129,442. Mr. Gill said that he felt that this item should be handled at Town Meeting and not at a Referendum because they are fixed costs and cannot be changed. TM Puiia said there is an issue on Science Hill where the Town has an easement but does not own the road. That area badly needs a culvert. The Town Meeting assemblage could vote to allow the Public Works to make these repairs. The Town Warrant must be signed on the 11th in order to have the meeting on the 28th. It was decided to keep the April 4 Budget meeting in order to finalize the Warrant. Mr. Skibitsky made a motion to raise \$129,442 for debt service and Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion. All were in favor.
2. Dept. #18 – General Assistance It was noted that this budget is well watched. In the spring, the largest amounts of requests are for electrical bills which are allowed to lapse in the winter months. Mr. Skibitsky moved that the amount be \$7500 and Mr. Gill seconded. All were in favor.
3. The next meeting will be Monday, April 4, 2016 at 5:30 at the Ludden Library meeting room. Mr. Gill made a motion to adjourn at 6:40 and Mr. Whittemore seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Norine Clarke