

2014-01-09 Westmoreland Budget Committee meeting
Draft Minutes

BC in attendance: Michael Acerno (School Board Rep), Russ Austin (BOS rep), Dawn Lincoln, Wes Staples (chair)

The budget committee attended the selectmen's meeting at 7 PM to listen to Harry Nelson (fire chief) and Peter Longsjø (library) present their budgets to the selectmen.

Harry Nelson

2 increases – turnout gear and new equipment both up 1000

turnout gear went up – getting lots of new guys and have some old gear that's out of compliance insurance e & o and vehicle also went up last year, but are going down in 2014, new rates 551 e and o, 2514 vehicle

new equip – for nozzle, hose, 15 air packs – about ½ bottles shouldn't be used anymore but are still running them (everything has a shelf life), they are 1K each, didn't buy any this year but have applied for a grant to bring all up to 2013 standards - haven't heard back yet, for 15 packs, 80/20 split – association will be picking up the 20%

Phone can be dropped to 1000 due to only spending 875 last year due to Jo Ann changing phone plan to save money

heating fuel spent 4000 in 2013, just got a delivery, only 275 gallon tank now vs old one dug up was 1000 gallons, budget 3000

Presented quotes (3) on getting engine 1 refurbished, 1998 truck, starting to show it's age, back body (not cab) has rust, nice truck functions well mechanically, instead of 300 – 400K on a new truck, repair this one, all NH businesses, all 3 have seen truck

valley fire equip bradford nh 51800

dingee machine 56850 – remove body and water tank to get inside everything, (Larry Dingee), would last 10-15 years after refurbish

lakes region 16957 – not sure why this bid is so different from others

Wes – this will be a warrant article?

Russ – could be, what's capital reserve balance?

Jo Ann about 16K

Russ – you (Harry) have traditionally favored city of keene for ambulance, contract expires end of march, quote up a few thousand

Keene brings 3 guys including a medic

requesting a quote from diluzio – run with 2 guys

Harry sends guys if call is bad, would have to send guys more often with Diluzio

Peter Longsjø – library

up from 32290 to 34675 for town appropriation

have a building fund – been using over the years, about 15K left

Pat Baker (trustee of trust fund) suggested investing 10K in trust fund (?), old investment was losing \$ due to maintenance fees, is in checking account now where at least it does not lose money, looking for a new investment vehicle if appropriate

interest income down about 900

gave handout re: roof condition, estimates from Ted for replacement, should be done in 2 – 3 years

Jack was there an issue with library not spending all town funds and keeping it? Can pay bills for 2013 by 1/9/14 and rest should be returned to the town according to the law.

Jo Ann due to reporting method of library it is hard to tell how much of town funds spent vs how much of library funds since funds are comingled

Peter might need two checking accounts?

Jo Ann if there's a surplus needs to be returned to town and could be taken off 1st quarterly payment that town makes to library

Wes asks about increase in computer expense (up 1000) – will be for automation of library (view catalog online, etc.), mostly will be funded by an anonymous donor

Peter – comparative numbers Marlborough spends 94K, Alstead 48K so getting a good deal at 37K

Russ do you want a capital reserve fund for the roof?

Peter sounds like a good idea, use money from town and also do targeted fundraising (like for children's wing)

Dawn asked BC where public hearing should be held. Decided town hall is sufficient for the hearing.

Jo Ann checked dates of 2/7/14 and snow date of 2/14/14 and the room is available.

Michael moved to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Dawn 2nd . Approved .

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Lincoln