

Westmorland Budget Committee

Notes regarding our meetings: January 5th – January 27th, 2015

Notes also include Public Hearing: February 11th, 2015

Respectfully submitted by Susan Finnegan

Budget Committee Members:

Mike Acerno

Susan Finnegan

Robert Moore, Jr.

Wesley Staples (Chair)

January 5th – first formal meeting of the year. In attendance:

Russ Austin
Wesley Staples
Robert Moore, Jr.

Michael Acerno
June Hammond
Susan Finnegan

Initiated reviewing the yearly budget. All in agreement with Selectman on Budget; meeting adjourned.

January 10th - 9 AM – Michael, Susan, Bob and Wesley all attended the SAUs presentation to the School Board of the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The School Budget is down \$119,822 from 2014-2015. A Warrant Article has been submitted for \$450k to replace the school boilers and fuel deliver/storage systems. Meeting adjourned.

January 12th – Attendance also included:

Jack Zeller

Fire Department budget submitted and approved.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector vs Town Administrator’s budget; separated out for the first time. Discussed why this would be the best option; separating out monies and expenditures – Budget Committee agrees with this plan. Budget Committee approved the budgets for both offices.

Discussion began regarding The Westmoreland Public Library’s budget...why two separate funds for projects, billing, savings, etc.? A long discussion pursued ending with an invitation to the members of the Library to join our next meeting for further discussions and a better understanding of how to clarify designated funds/monies, legally for the State.

Meeting adjourned.

January 21st – In attendance:

Russ Austin
Wesley Staples
Robert Moore, Jr.
Michael Acerno

June Hammond
Susan Finnegan
Cindy Cate
Kathy Cox

Discussion with representatives from the Library on the legalities for balancing their budget each year, were initiated. Different ideas were discussed resulting in the Town of Westmoreland to pay their monthly bills, just as we do for other departments. All in attendance were in agreement to proceed with this proposal. Kathy Cox and Cindy Cote will move forward to set this up with our Town Administrator.

Budget Committee members continued reviewing the yearly 2015 Town Budget. Our work on this was completed on January 21. Budget Committee in agreement to date, with the Selectmen, for the proposed budget of \$1,225,770. Meeting adjourned.

PUBLIC HEARING February 2nd for the Budget Committee at the Westmoreland Town Hall. This meeting is scheduled to receive public input regarding the proposed 2015 Town and 2015/2016 School Budgets.

The Public Hearing was re-scheduled due to snow, for February 11, 2015.

February 11th – Susan Finnegan, Bob Moore, Jr and Wesley Staples in attendance. Deborah Hunter sat in for Mike Acerno, to answer school budget questions.

Discussions commenced regarding the school and town budgets. Clarification was necessary for the town people regarding the surplus \$200k from last year 2014-2015 School Budget...these monies were utilized for warrant articles (windows, etc.) and reduced our taxes for 2014-2015 budget year.

A further discussion regarding the \$400k warrant article for the new heating system at The Westmoreland School; this discussion will continue on the 19th of February for this bond issue – the poles will be left open for one hour for voting.

The Town Budget was discussed with no issues or changes. Meeting adjourned.

TOWN MEETING scheduled for 3.11.2015 @ 7:00.