

Budget Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2014

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:30 pm

Roll Call: The Chair called the roll of the seating members Bruce Woodruff, Larry Brown, Eric Ohlenbusch, Bob Carrier, Devon Pageau, Stan Nadeau (Water District) Ann Walsh (School Board) Mike Beaulieu (Selectmen), Jennifer Crone. Public: Andrew Rawson

A quorum was present

Approval of Minutes: The Chair ask if there were any changes need to be made to the minutes. Of August 19th 2014 if not I need a motion to approve. Stan N. made the motion to approve the minutes as amended the date correction second by Eric O. motion passed 8-0-1 abstained.

Citizens Comments: None

Review School Budget: Ann handed out the expense report for August 2014. Ann said the salary

lines are overdrawn we have a few teachers at the school who are paid entirely out of grants and the grant paperwork had not been finalized at that point so the salaries had to come out of these lines. The grants have been completed so the lines will change. We hired newer teachers that will save about \$30,000.

The health Ins. Teachers have till mid-September to let the School District know if you are taking the buyout. There's not much encumbered here, a lot usually get done in Sept.

Bob C. ask about the SAU #64 budget that ended last June if the \$73,102.19 was a surplus and where does it go? Ann said yes basically because we had a change of the Special Ed. Director

we saved \$50,000 there. We terminated the grant account salary position beginning in Sept. so that saved \$37,000 also saved money on technical services. The money goes to the fund balance for the SAU and that's something that's not turn back to the Town. That's something that sits there were supposed to keep at least 3 months of an operating budget in the account there just in case.

Larry B: ask what final number would be for a return to the general fund after security and Special Ed and etc. are taken out? **Ann:** She said it may be \$ 150,000 right know.

Ann: the School District of Milton in our general fund we can't keep that money that has to go back to the tax rate.

Stan ask Ann with that statement you're required 3 months budget **Ann:** it's recommended. **Stan:** what happens if you keep the 3 month window what happens with funds after that? The joint Board can vote to give the money back to both communities.

Bruce: ask Ann on the grand total bottom line right now that \$9,404,000 budget the amount remaining which include encumbrance funds \$2,626,000 is that where you want to be at this point in time? It's usually where we are but there's a lot of encumbering and a lot of adjustments in the

health Ins. salary lines done during the month of September. We also don't have a Business Administrator right now.

Bob C. ask what were the findings from the Harriman group on Nute? Ann: they said the structure of old Nute is very sound it could be renovated but at what cost? There are several issues that need to be addressed. There's water in the basement, no elevator it's not handicap accessible and a hallway would have to be put in. The building would need to conform to the codes.

A ventilation system would also have to be installed it would be very expensive.

Larry: ask if there was a hard copy available of the study that was done. Ann said yes there's a copy in the Library. Larry: ask if there was any available space to put a ventilation system in. Ann said no.

Bruce: ask does the SB contemplate creating a citizen committee? Ann: there's a lot of work to be done.

There was a discussion at the SB meeting last week with the water issue in the basement and it would probably cost \$17,000 just to do that study to see if we could solve that problem and the Board ask Mr. Tursi to talk to Harriman about the elevator and the hallway issue.

Larry: ask if Nute could be integrated to senior housing? Ann: said it would have to be brought to code. Bruce: added to some degree it is a suggested call by officials in town to make that determination.

Stan: ask about what Rollinsford had to say about leaving Somersworth. Ann: responded the discussion of leaving Somersworth has been going on for years and was one of those small town things and that if they had a few more years with Somersworth the vote would have gone the other way because they feel Somersworth is moving forward and making progress with the new Superintendent they have now.

Stan: ask if they are talking with Farmington or another town they will meet with? Ann: we will be looking at Middleton as well. Farmington have contacted us a long time ago and we were interested in talking to them but they haven't gotten back to us.

Bruce: The bottom line in this issue are you still in a fact finding mode? Ann yes. The SB voted not to proceed with Somersworth with all the math figures that were done it was determine that best case scenario you would save \$800,000 over 5 year period.

Bruce: There's been no official decisions. Ann: said were not looking elsewhere right now.

Bruce: are we done with this for the time being? Ann yes.

Review of Town Budget: Mike said as of 9/8 it's at 57% spent.

Bob: The Gov't Building line 01-4194-120 Salary Part time has not been used. Mike: said it's possible that Pat Smith is down one person. Devon: said usually they hire part time help in the summer. Bruce: This would be a question for Pat. Jen: ask does the line have to stay there because it's a default budget. Bruce: said yes.

Bob: In line number 01-4194-725 Cemetery Maint. This has to be an accounting error the Budget is for \$5,000 and in the YTD exp. column minus -1,559.24 was added in the remaining amount line to 6,559.24. I believe the 1,559.24 should have been subtracted from the \$5,000 budget not add to it.

Bruce: ask Mike to check with Liz and the bookkeeper.

In the Fire Dept the Telephone line 01-4220-450 the budget is \$2,552.00 the MTD \$700.07 seems to be too high a possible accounting error. Bruce said we need to get an answer for that.

Devon: said in ref. the telephone line it looks like psnh bills taken out of that line Milton and Milton Mills station. It appears to be an accounting error Devon will look into it.

Bob: I'm concerned with the fuel lines in Gov't Buildings 01-4194-640 vehicle fuels 89% spent

Fire Dept. 01-4220-640 Vehicle fuel 96%, PWD line 01-4312-645 Diesel fuel 88% This line may have accounting errors the YTD \$31,806.95 it should be \$29,416.72. We have 4 months more to go.

Stan: At the last meeting I had a concern with the overall budget moving monies into line items that didn't have any money in it and the Board voted to have the Selectmen come to us at this meeting with either or decision by the DRA or Town council if it's legally appropriate.

Bruce: said the motion was to let the Selectmen provide the request to DRA at the next Budget Committee meeting and provide the report.

Mike: said the information from the DRA is that the 4 digit number in the middle identifies that Dept. This is what the DRA is concerned about. You can add as many \$1.00 lines as you want.

Stan: ask where's the paper work? Mike: replied there is no paper work.

Stan: motion to get a written decision from DRA on that practice of putting a \$1.00 in the lines that there is no funds in them Sec Bob.

Stan: said the question I want ask DRA is it legal and appropriate to take funds and add to line items that has zero funds in the existing budget. Larry: ask if there were any Enabling RSA's or documents? Bruce probably not.

There were further discussion on the subject and the importance of having it in writing.

Bruce: We apparently lost the Selectmen's rep. at 7:18 pm.

Bruce: Mike gave us the answer and it appeared that we weren't believing him.

Bruce: Roll Call on the motion Eric O Yes, Ann W. Yes, Jen C. Yes, Bob C. Yes, Bruce W. No, Stan N. Yes, Devon P. No, Larry B. No, Motion passed 5-3 motion passed.

Ann volunteered to call DRA and get the information in writing.

Members Comments: Bruce I'm going to give you an update on the budget process for the

Committee. Bob went to the BOS meeting in place of Bruce who could not be there and requested a budget for the BC for a recording secretary in the amount of \$1400.00 this should get us through 18 to 20 meetings and a couple of public hearings on top of that at an increase rate \$60.00. **Bruce:** sent everyone by e-mail an update schedule which includes the school budget review dates. Those meetings will be held at the Nute cafeteria at 6:00pm.

Ann: Booked Jan 13th for the School District public hearing and then the deliberative session tentively for Sat. Feb 7th.

Bruce: The schedule is still a work in progress for these final meetings I will make sure you get the right answer and the right dates and send it out to the Committee as revision 2.

Bruce: The conversation with Liz TA they have not decided yet on their schedule she will keep in touch. **Ann:** ask if she was aware of the School dates. **Bruce:** Yes

Bruce: He was ask to be the BC Representative on the School business Administrator team interviewed 4 candidates and members from Wakefield were involved. **Ann:** we have our final interviews this Thursday. **Bruce:** what came out of the interview process was that you narrowed it down to two and those two will move on and be interviewed by the School Boards.

Stan: just for the minutes I just want it noted that it was totally inappropriate for the Selectmen Rep. to leave the meeting.

Adjourn: Bruce ask for a motion to adjourn Devon made the motion second by Ann

Motion passed at 7:32 pm

Submitted by Vice Chair Bob Carrier

Chairmen: _____