

Budget Committee Minutes  
10/27/2005

Members Present: Dick Hickok, Sue Greene, Diana Goodhue, Sean Murphy, Connie Grant, Bob Brent, John O'Brien, Derek Tomlinson

Members Absent: Phyllis Corrigan, Bill Phillips, Dennis Doten, Don Sibson,

After the pledge of allegiance, the Committee began by adopting the Selectmen's recommendation on the Library. (SM/JO/6-0)

They considered the \$10,000 for the new Library project. (SM/JO) A motion was made and defeated to amend the amount to \$5000 (BB/DG/2-5). Bill Seed, Library Trustee, was present to explain and answer questions on the project. Ultimately, the Committee recommended the \$10,000 (4-3), but as a separate warrant article (DT/CG/7-1)

Bob Brent reviewed the Fire Department Working Group sheet. Jim Hayes explained that he would change his request for Overtime to \$123,300 but could not operate within the Selectmen's recommendation of \$103,936. He also noted other areas where he would change his recommendation. There was a lengthy discussion about the operations of the fire department, use of various vehicles and equipment, and the need for all the trainings and memberships. There was significant debate over the overtime account and why the Selectmen recommended the reduction.

The Committee asked for an itemized explanation of the Selectmen's reductions.

Each of the Fire Department's capital requests were discussed, and the Committee was informed that the Town had received a grant for the SCBA. Consideration of a new ambulance and the administrative vehicle were the main topics.

The Police Department budget was reviewed by Sean Murphy. The working group found no discrepancies and recommended funding at the same level recommended by the Selectmen. Chief Markland was answered questions for the Committee on several accounts, particularly the vehicle maintenance and the police vehicles in general. The Committee thanked the police department for taking the initiative to fundraise for the purchase of new firearms. Each of the capital requests were reviewed, with significant discussion on the radar trailer.

The previous meeting minutes were approved (JO/CG/8-0). The Committee would like to see the membership list on the Town's website corrected. It was noted that Bill Philips had an excused absence.

The Chairman explained that the wage and benefit issues would be fully discussed at the meeting on 11/15, when the administrative budgets will be reviewed in order to prevent dominating every meeting with this topic.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Shackett, Finance Director  
Asst. Town Administrator