

12/01/05

Budget Committee Minutes – all members present

After the pledge of allegiance the Chairman invited Evans Juris, Town Administrator to read a letter from the Board of Selectmen. He requested that the Budget Committee restore funding for the Thompson-Ames Historical Society and the Airport Authority.

Kathy Keller, Executive Director of New Beginnings was present to explain the newsletter and newspaper articles regarding Columbus Day. She answered questions from the BC and the public. A major discrepancy seemed to be the definition of “political”. There were members of the public requesting that the Committee fund New Beginnings and also people requesting withholding funds. Chief Markland was present to support the services provided by this agency. A motion was made to recommend \$1800 for New Beginnings. (DT/SM/10-1)

BP mentioned the possibility of reducing the request for the Youth Service Bureau, based on a credit memo from the organization. The action was tabled pending research by the Finance Director.

The Gas account in the highway budget was discussed and Sheldon Morgan, DPW Director was present to explain the current situation, how the state gas pumps work, and how the budgeted figure was arrived at. A motion to reduce that line item by \$6000 was made and failed. (BP/DT/1-10)

The default budget was discussed and the philosophy of how it was prepared was explained. Evans further explained the process and the consistency applied. He then distributed a memo on requested funding for capital reserve accounts for an ambulance purchase, technology, and highway equipment.

A motion was made to recommend \$50000 for an ambulance reserve fund and \$27000 for the highway reserve fund and failed. (SM/DT/2-10) The committee recommended \$60000 for the ambulance fund and \$17000 for the highway fund.

A draft version of a letter to the Selectmen was distributed and discussed. The pay policy was explained. A motion was made to send the letter to the Selectmen. PC/BB/9-1-1

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Shackett, Asst. Town Administrator