

Hill Budget Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2008

Members Present: Nancy Chaddock (Chairman), John Lynch (Vice Chair), Shaun Bresnahan (Secretary), Steve Farris (Selectmen), Shelly Henry (School Board), Rhonda Bucklin, Bob Dupuis, Joseph Mahoney, Paul Meyerhoefer, Paula McDonough, Vickie Plant, George Robie, John Belco.

At 7:00 PM Nancy Chaddock called the meeting to order.

Minutes from the 1/21/08 meeting were reviewed; John Lynch made a motion to accept minutes as submitted, Gary David seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Desiree Mahurin informed members who needed to be re-elected in March.

Steve Farris handed out the updated town budget.

Desiree Mahurin presented the budget for Lines 4140 and 4150. Software was purchased in October that allows electronic deposits of checks. If she takes in more than \$500.00 and it includes cash she still needs to drive to bank for deposit. The software has reduced the number of trips to the bank.

- The selectmen are going to split the cost of a new copier, the current copier is 5 years old and last year required 7 service calls. Leasing a copier cost's about \$1,000.00 more.
- Desiree is requesting a 5% raise; this is a cost-of-living and merit raise. Last merit raise was in 2000. She has many new certifications and received a good performance review from the selectmen. Desiree is going to increase her hours from 32 to 35/week; these will be public hours. Deputy clerk will be increased to 15 hrs/week.
- On the 4150 line the only increase is for postage. Town doesn't mail enough to get bulk mailing discounts.

Chief Don Sullivan presented the Police Dept. Budget.

- Line 4200; Major increase is the proposed phased creation of a full time Chief beginning July 1. The 2009 budget will increase approximately another \$31,000 when the position is funded for the whole year.
- Summary of hours:

| Position | Curreant Hrs. | Proposed Hrs. | |
|----------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | Patrol | Call |
| Chief | 20 hrs. @ \$15.91 | 40 hrs. | 40 hrs |
| Deputy | 12 hrs. @ 12.87 | 12 hrs. | |
| Deputy | 12 hrs. @ 12.87 | 12 hrs. | 64 hrs. split between 3 officers. |
| | 48 hrs. | 64 hrs. | 104 hrs. |

- This will provide 24/7 call coverage at a minimum. Chief feels this is very doable with current staffing, and the deputies agree.

2/4/2008

Bob Dupuis asked why there was so much police coverage in the fall; this was because John Evans was in Iraq for most of the year. A new deputy was hired Dave Kratz and he was willing to work more hours and use up un-spent wages that would have been used by John. Bob all so asked about time slips, they have very little info. The time slip the fire dept. uses is detailed. Chief & Steve agree that this should be changed to make Dept. more accountable.

Bob asked why vehicle maintenance was over budget, Chief replied regular maintenance and he thinks there was a major transmission repair. The Chief was asked when the rear bumper was dented and why it wasn't repaired, cruiser doesn't look professional. Chief said it happened about 1 yr. ago and he felt that since it wasn't structural damage he didn't feel it was worth putting money into a 6 yr. old vehicle. It was pointed out that with the proposed increase in coverage, that the budgeted amount for gas & vehicle maintenance was the same as last year and that estimate was actually \$2,700 to low. This needs to be updated.

Bob asked if the town had ordered a new cruiser last year, Chief said no. He had contacted Hillsboro Ford to spec a vehicle so he could give the Selectmen info. He did not request the vehicle to be ordered. The dealer said they could order it and if the town didn't approve it at Town Meeting they could still sell it. Bob questions if the correct process was being followed.

Bob asked the Chief why Hill needs a full time chief and not a full time patrolman. The Chief feels that this would bring continuity to the town, which it hasn't had. A patrolman wouldn't make enough to want to stay put. A full time Chief would make enough to want to stay in Hill. The Chief lives in town and would love the opportunity to serve the town.

Next Bob Helmer's, Chairman for the Planning Board addressed the committee regarding the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Paul Meyerhoefer asked Bob how the Historic Expense chart was created. It looked at all capital improvement projects over the last 9 years. Bob D. wanted to know how the capital projects were determined. Bob replied it is a combination of the master plan and the results of a survey sent out to the Dept. Heads. This plan is a planning document that will be updated annually. John L. is a little worried the CIP will be used to force pet projects through.

Gary David feels this is a good step forward.

From 8:55 to 9:05 there was a brief recess to stretch.

Steve Farris started out with a review of the draft warrant articles. The 7th article was removed since it is a duplicate of the 12th article, which was also edited to remove the words "...off set the cost of the new pumper/tanker."

Article #1 deals with the purchase of a new Pumper/Tanker for the fire department, looking to spend \$66,000 from capital reserve and finance \$234,000.00. Finance terms

2/4/2008

will be in line with CIP, which planned on \$25,000.00/yr payments. This will require a 2/3rds ballot vote.

Article 2 relates to capital reserve deposits, need to add a line for Transfer Station Improvements \$5,000.00 to get the \$85,000.00 total.

Article 3 the annual withdrawal from the Ferrin Fund, this year it will be \$15,156.

Article 4 deposits \$34,000 into Bridge Repair trust, this will satisfy Hill's share for the replacement of the High Bridge. Total cost of project is estimated at 1.1 million, Hill needs to provide 10% or \$110,000.00. Bristol is expected to raise its share this spring. Contract should be read for awarding right around town meeting. Gary David comments that there is no warrant article appropriating the \$110,000.00, Selectmen should check with DRA. This project cannot proceed without Hill & Bristol appropriating all of their share.

Article 5 takes the highway block grant money from 2007 & 2008 totaling \$90,981.00 and deposit's it in the Road Improvements Capital Reserve account. The 2007 money was encumbered.

Article 6, Steve say's this is just to see how the town feels about spending \$10,000.00 for this improvement projects.

Article 7 was deleted.

Article 8 appropriates \$8,000.00 to construct a dry hydrant at a still undetermined site. Under consideration are Tioga Rd, Currier Rd and Murray Hill Rd. One was recently installed on the West End of Murray Hill Road for just over \$6,000.00. Some left over FEMA money was used.

Article 9 Transfer's the un-spent \$20,000.00 from the Road Study Committee into the Road Improvements Capital Reserve account. Shaun B. ask's if we really need to put a total of \$132,000 into the Road Improvement CR all in one year. Steve feels this is necessary, and none of it comes from taxation. Shaun reply's true but some of it could be used to reduce taxes.

At this point talk concentrates on road improvements. Steve reports the Road Study Committee has completed its report and the Selectmen would like to start implementing it this year. Work would concentrate on Currier and Case Mill Road this year. There is no estimated cost. LRPC surveyed all the roads and analyzed them and rated the based on traffic and other factors and also determined the remaining life of the roads. This report was submitted to Hill in December and because of snow they could not look at the conditions and estimate the amount of work.

The selectmen would like the budget committee to recommend letting the selectmen be agents to spend money from the capital improvements capital reserve fund. Committee members would like to see a plan and see some estimated costs first. The committee would like to do improvements to drainage & ditches and the shim coat with asphalt. The Highway crew would do drainage work and ditching, money would cover materials.
2/4/2008

The Selectmen agree that the Road Study Committee could make the decisions on how much to spend. Much discussion revolved around this.

At 10:35 PM John Lynch made a motion to adjourn, Gary David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The committee decides to meet again on Thursday 1/31/08 at 7:30 PM at the Hill Library.

Respectfully submitted

Shaun Bresnahan
Secretary