

**Hill Budget Committee**  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 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, Vickie Plant, George Robie, John Belco.

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

Minutes from the 1/28/08 meeting were reviewed; John Lynch made a motion to accept minutes as submitted, Gary David seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Dean Wheeler presented the Highway Dept. proposed budget. Last year the highway budget was over spent because of the April flooding and emergency road repairs. Because of this several line items were not spent in order to keep expenses to a minimum, this included rental of roadside mowers. FEMA reimbursed the Town of Hill \$35,326.65.

Dean would like to replace all 3 bay doors to town shed. New door would be more energy efficient. At present the lower panel on 2 of the doors need to be replaced and that would cost approximately \$1,600. The new doors would be aluminum and insulated. Dean would like to use more hot patch to fix some large sections of road. These sections are not included in road study report.

John L. asked Dean if he had considered converting to a waste oil furnace. Dean looked at Danbury's new setup and he wasn't impressed. The storage area was very messy, furnace is suspended from ceiling and it is messy. You have to handle oil several times.

Safety Equipment is personal safety gear: steel toe boots, eye & ear protection, chainsaw chaps.

Chief Clark and Lt. Lewis from Bristol PD addressed the Budget Committee regarding their proposal to provide police coverage for Hill. Chief Clark made it clear they weren't here to recruit Hill but responding to a request from the sub-committee. Hill & Bristol PD has a good working relationship. Several times when Hill didn't have an officer on duty Bristol has responded to provide police assistance until State Police arrives.

If this proposal was approved the Bristol/Hill town line wouldn't exist for police coverage. Hill would be part of their Southern Patrol Sector (Downtown Bristol to the Franklin Line). At a minimum there would be two patrol units on duty. During the prime times there would be 3 patrol units and one command unit, Hill would see regular patrols 24/7. Bristol's proposed cost of \$192,000 is necessary to purchase a new cruiser and 2 additional police officers. The Chief is asked how Bristol benefits from this arrangement? Bristol gets additional officers available when needed. Hill would be paying for one cruiser every three years and Bristol would be paying for five cruisers. This plan would also include police officers available for in school programs.

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After Chief Clark presented his proposal the Committee continued talking. It is the consensus that the Town needs to vote on Police Coverage issue, it shouldn't be buried in the budget. Members question whether Hill with 600 calls need this kind of coverage. Most members feel that Chief Sullivan's proposal isn't doable with current staffing.

John Lynch asked Steve Farris if the Town is going to buy a new dump body for Dean's truck a bucket loader. Steve say's yes but they are doing this outside the budget. They would do this with the Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. In 1999, warrant article 10 passed appointing the Selectmen to be agents of this fund. This wasn't a one-time permission, the Selectmen are Agents until this is rescinded. Committee members are shocked and felt this was a one-time deal. Members talked about how this could be corrected. The Budget Committee has enough members to submit a Warrant Article by petition.

The Committee asked Steve if there were other funds that the are Agents for, at this time the State shows they are Agents for the Wellhead Protection, Highway Heavy Equipment, Police & Fire Heavy Equipment, Appraisal, Transfer Station and Master Plan Capital Reserve Funds.

The Selectmen would like to add wording to make them Agents to spend from the Road Improvements Capital Reserve Fund. Steve insists that the Selectmen want the Road Study Committee to decide what work gets done. Committee members would like to see a specified maximum amount to be spent this year.

The Fire Department would like to start a Fire Station Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. They want to add 20 feet to both sides of the fire station. They would like to start with \$20,000 this year. The CIP doesn't budget any money this year but starting next year puts 10,000/yr. for this purpose.

The Selectmen would like to split the cost of a grant writer with Bristol. Both communities would provide \$20,000/yr. It is felt this position would more then cover its cost in savings. Members agree this should be tried.

Some members feel that the new fire tanker/pumper hasn't been thoroughly explored. Members would like to make sure there are no Grants or GSA equipment available.

At 10:00 PM Nancy makes a motion to adjourn, John Lynch seconds the motion and it passes unanimously. Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday 2/4/08 at the Hill Library, 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Shaun Bresnahan  
Secretary

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