

Hill Budget Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2009

Members Present: Shaun Bresnahan (Chairman), Nancy Chaddock, , Paul Meyerhoefer, Vickie Plant, Vincent Dooley, Marc Coffin, Jerry Weinert, Linda Henry, John Lynch (Selectmen) and Shelly Henry (School Board).

Members Absent: Rhonda Bucklin, Bob Dupuis, Joseph Mahoney, George Robie

Public Present: Mark Dow, Mike Stanley

Shaun opened the meeting at 7:00 PM; the minutes from the 11/18/09 meeting were not available since Bob Dupuis was absent.

Reviewed the up coming meeting schedule:

December 23 – Continue with Department budgets

January 6 – School Board Budget

January 28 – Public hearing

February 4 – Continue Public Hear and Open public meeting final budget.

John Lynch informed the budget committee that the tax rate was set at \$19.22, tax bills will be going out next week. The Selectmen notified Department Heads that they would consider raises up to 3% for the 2010 budget. They haven't decided whether they would approve them.

Library trustees present their proposed 2010 budget. Bottom line is \$30,114.37, this is a 7.5% increase from 2009. Increases include a 3% pay raise for librarian, money for new books, money towards computer replacement. Shaun informed the Trustees of the projected revenue short fall of \$100,000.00 and how hard it was going to be to prevent property tax increase. Shaun asked where the Trustees thought money could be trimmed. The Trustees felt this was already a bare bones budget. Linda Henry asked why a town as small as Hill needs some many hours open at the Library? Norma Kane answered that the Library is the best service that Hill provides and it is well used by the public.

Paul M. asked about the status of the Lane and Addison funds which the Library has. Gale Sipes informed the board they each had approximately \$1,000.00 and only the earned interest could be spent.

Paul M. asked how many hours the library was opened. Gale. S informed the committee that the library is open 32 hrs. to the public and 8 hrs. for just the school.

Next the Acting Fire Chief presented the proposed Fire Dept. budget for 2010. The bottom line for the budget is \$48,392.91, this is a 2.5% reduction from 2009. There was general discussion on several line items. In particular the cost of protective clothing and how many complete turn-out sets the department had. There are 15 members and they are all outfitted and there are 3 additional sets in inventory. The committee was also informed that a new/used engine was purchased, total amount expended in the search and purchase was \$85,000.00. Shaun B. asked if there were any equipment needs, Dee informed there committee there were but the remaining \$15,000 would be more then enough to cover the expense. The warrant article from 2009 was reviewed and Shaun B. asked if that was going to be completed by 12/31 since the authorization expires then, the warrant article doesn't specified a multi-year appropriation. The Selectmen will look into deadline.

John L. informed the committee that Bristol has provided a cost for ambulance service for 2010, it has increased to \$27,082.00 up from approximately \$17,000 last year. Brief discussion ensued regarding the insurance re-imburements and how they are used to offset the total cost to the town.

John L, then provided the committee with the proposed 2010 budget for the police dept. Chief Kratz wasn't available for questions. The proposed budget has a bottom line of \$66,538, this is a 3.9% increase over 2009. The biggest increase is in wages, Chief Kratz is planning on adding 8 hrs. of patrol time/week. Chief Kratz is not asking for any pay raises in the department.

John Lynch discussed the assessment change for the Old Hill Village, it has been reduced from \$7 Million to approximately \$2 Million, reducing revenue form around \$130,000 to approx. \$32,000. The town has two options, 1) live with the situation 2) Town council suggest we hire an independent accessor to perform an assessment of the land within the flood control with the hope of increasing the value which will in tern raise revenue payment. Selectmen wonder if the budget committee supports having the town discuss and vote on this at town meeting, committee members agree this should be brought before town meeting.

At 8:50 PM Shaun B. made a motion to adjourn, Marc C. second, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Shaun Bresnahan.