

Selectmen's Meeting with the Budget Committee December 27, 2016

Selectmen Present: George Tuthill, Robert Piehler

Members Present: Fred Platts, Donna Duquette, Doug Benton, Ken Hall, William Hall, Lori Mead,

Alternate Members Present: Harold Platts

The meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m. Fred Platts and William Hall entered the meeting at 6:09 pm.

Business:

There was a question as to whether the meeting was being held legally; it was explained that the meeting was properly noticed in two public places.

The Budget Committee reviewed the decisions that were made at the Budget Committee's December 13, 2016 meeting with the Selectmen.

(Items from December 13, 2016 Meeting as noted in the minutes are in italics)

A motion was made by Ken Hall and the second by Fred Platts to keep Town donations at the 2015 level and not fund any new requests. The motion was made by Ken Hall and seconded by Fred Platts.

Members of the Budget Committee all voted yes.

The Selectmen agreed that the charitable donations budgets should remain the same as last year.

A warrant article was discussed to provide support for equipment replacement for the Fire Department.

The amount of the warrant was discussed but no decision of amount was made.

There was discussion regarding establishing a special fund via warrant article for emergency equipment repairs and putting \$10,000 in to that fund. The Budget Committee discussed Chief Mark Chevalier's request to increase the Fire Department budget for 2017 by \$10,000 to cover repair costs for a pump; the budget committee agreed to increase the proposed 2017 Fire Department from \$37,650 to \$47,650.

The ambulance service contract was discussed and the Budget Committee would like to review the feasible alternatives with regard to service quality and cost.

There was discussion regarding looking for alternatives to using Bristol for our ambulance service.

The highway budget was reviewed and Ken Hall made a motion to move part-time labor to five thousand dollars and seconded by Ronald Maclean. All Budget Committee members voted yes.

After discussion, the budget committee's change to the highway department part-time labor budget did not change.

A discussion followed involving the equipment repair budget. It was discussed that it could be moved to \$30,000.00 from \$40,000. No vote was taken.

After discussion regarding needed grader repairs, the budget committee decided not to cut the highway department equipment repair budget.

The Police budget was discussed and Budget Committee members want to explore alternatives to the provide services to the Town of Alexandria. Members discussed the possible use of the NH State Police. The Budget Committee representatives will discuss with the town Selectmen.

There was discussion regarding whether the Police Department requires an Administrative Assistant and new computer equipment. The Budget Committee and Selectmen reviewed the discussion that occurred at the December 20, 2016 Selectmen's Meeting regarding the police department. There was discussion regarding the Selectmen establishing a committee to look at different options for the police department, including utilizing state police, county sheriff department, combing services with other towns for a regional department, asking Danbury to share employment related for an officer that works for both Towns, and cutting back on the number of officers the town employs. There was discussion regarding who would call

or speak to State Police and Grafton County Sheriffs to see what the cost would be for them to cover the Town; no decision was made.

William Hall made a motion to cut the Police Department budget by \$100,000; Fred Platts seconded; vote 3 yes, 4 no; motion failed.

Minutes from the Budget Committees held on December 13, 2016, November 29, 2016 and

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Dostie