

Advisory Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2015

The following members were present: Laraine King, Dan Brady, Dick McDanolds, Barb Dutile, Dick Fabrizio, Jon Hobbs, Andrew Maffei, Christopher Luurtsema (arrived at 7:42 pm), and Howard Hatch. Also present: Selectboard members Wayne Fortier, Tom Friel, Robert Roudebush, Lynn Wheeler and Rick Ladd; Town Manager Glenn English; Admin. Asst./Finance Officer Jo Lacaillade; Road Agent Stuart McDanolds; Clerk Karen Hyde; Darwin Clogston and Austin Albro.

Dick McDanolds called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Robert Roudebush asked about the schedule for the next meetings and was given a copy of the e-mail that was sent out. TM English went over some of the highlights of the Highway budget. There is a line item for part-time summer help to help with summer vacations. Another big expenditure account is Machine Hire, of which approximately \$42,000 is for the next gravel road reconstruction project. The Highway Department does approximately 4,000 linear feet of gravel roads per year. This year, the hope is to continue on Lime Kiln Road or another section of County Road. The other big expenditure this year is the replacement truck. He noted that \$60,000 of the total (\$95,000) would come from Capital Reserve-Vehicles. TM English then passed out the spreadsheet for the Capital Road Project along with an explanation of the plan, funding plan, and definitions of construction terms. He commented that it was a lot of information. He then passed out the explanation justifying the replacement truck and the urgency. Dan Brady asked where the \$60,000 in Reserves was shown in the budget. AA Lacaillade stated that it was shown on the Revenue side. Dan Brady also asked if any vehicles were being traded in and TM English stated that it was not the Town's practice to trade a vehicle in. The old vehicle would be put out to bid as that would generate more revenue. There was a question about what kind of vehicle you get for \$90,000. Road Agent McDanolds stated that it would be a 550 Ford or a 5500 series Dodge, which is a more rugged chassis than a regular one ton. There would be a dump body on it. With a bigger truck and a wing, plowing could be done much more efficiently and quicker at Mountain Lakes. Laraine King commented that Mountain Lakes used to be more recreational/vacation homes, but now there are more people in Mountain Lakes who work and have to get out. Howard Hatch asked if the warranty on a new truck would be void if there was a wing added. RA McDanolds stated that he needed to do more research on that. The \$111,000 International would have a wing and the warranty would not be void, but he wasn't sure about the Ford or Dodge. Howard then commented that the last time the Town had to buy a one ton, he asked if a 3500 series would be heavy enough and was assured that it was, but another truck now needs to be purchased. Howard then asked

RA McDanolds what size body would be going on and RA McDanolds stated that it would be 3½ or 4 yards. Someone asked the question of how many miles were plowed in Mountain Lakes. RA McDanolds responded that it was between 12 and 12½ miles. He also stated that when he plowed Mountain Lakes, he usually had to make two passes each way. By putting a wing on a new truck, he could make one pass each way. Howard asked if the grader was still used for plowing and if the new truck would take the grader out of the loop. RA McDanolds stated that it would still be used for severe storms with heavy snow. TM English commented that the grader was in fairly good condition engine-wise, so if a new truck could reduce usage of the grader, that would be good. Wayne Fortier asked if a four-wheel drive vehicle is necessary for plowing Mountain Lakes. RA McDanolds stated that he would not attack Mountain Lakes without a four-wheel drive vehicle with all the hills. He then did a brief explanation of Onspot chains, which are only used in an emergency situation. Dan Brady asked if the Town had access to a State group contract for this type of equipment and TM English responded that the only thing he knew about was for loaders and backhoes. Darwin Clogston asked about hiring out trucks to do the plowing. RA McDanolds commented that in the January-March period, he spent about \$10,000 in Machine Hire funds for a one-ton truck to help with the plowing. The hired one-ton helps with the smaller roads off Route 10.

Howard Hatch commented that he was not prepared to vote on this Highway budget without knowing what was going to be done with the bond for the Capital Road Project that the Committee was just given that evening. He stated that he was very much against “bonding” and not having everything clear for the bond. The Town was still paying on the bond for French Pond Road. He asked the Chairman to table the Highway Budget until the Committee had a chance to study the Capital Roads Project that they had been given and a plan. TM English explained that the 10-year Capital Roads Plan was front-end loaded with a large expenditure the first two years in order to get caught up on the roads. The operational budget is not enough to get caught up with the road work. Mr. Hatch commented that TM English and RA McDanolds were making all the decisions about big amounts of money and should get information from other sources. TM English commented that the Highway budget was only one part of the total budget. He also commented that there would not be any real improvement in the roads without considering a bond. The point of the 10-year plan was to save the good and fair roads before they end up bad like Lily Pond Road. The roads that were on the 10-year plan would be done right and then would only require maintenance. Dick Fabrizio asked about the fuel costs for the trucks and AA Lacaillade stated that the Highway Department received their fuel through the State. Howard asked if the Highway Department was locked in with their fuel rates and RA McDanolds stated that they were locked in for a year. Jon Hobbs asked if the bond were approved, what effect would it have on the current Highway budget and if the bond wasn’t approved, what effect would it have on the current Highway budget. TM English commented that if the bond was or wasn’t approved, there would be no real effect on the current Highway

budget. If the bond passes, the \$100,000 Tar budget could be used to reduce the debt. Jon then asked if the bond were to pass, the only thing that would possibly be affected would be the \$100,000 Tar budget. TM English stated that Rick Ladd had a good idea to use the Tar budget to do the crack seal on the roads. Laraine King asked when the road construction season begins and RA McDanolds stated that it was May-November, depending on the weather. Laraine then asked TM English what the \$1.8 million was on the 10-year plan. He responded that that was the total cost of doing all the roads on the plan, but the Selectboard could draw the line anywhere on the plan. He would have copies in the Selectboard office of the study that was done by North Country Council that determined the priority of the roads. RA McDanolds commented that if the Town were to do the bond, whatever the price of asphalt was, that would be the price that was locked in for the 10-year period. TM English commented that the longer the Town waits, the more the price will increase. Wayne Fortier asked that the study done by North Country Council was only for asphalt roads and TM English stated that it was. Mr. Clogston asked about the amount of money spent on 4 miles of French Pond Road. TM English responded that French Pond Road used to be very bad and could hardly be driven on. The people in Mountain Lakes could understand how bad it was and how much better it is now. TM English then did a brief history of the Woodsville reimbursement process for Chairman Luurtsema. Whatever money the Town appropriates for highway, the Woodsville taxpayers must be reimbursed for their share.

Chairman Luurtsema asked what was expected of the Committee as there seemed to be two issues – the replacement truck and the Highway budget. TM English commented that the bond was an entirely different issue. Dan Brady commented that the \$100,000 Tar budget was only 12% of the entire budget, so if there were no other issues, he didn't feel that the Committee should hold up on a decision based on 12% of the budget. Laraine King asked about the Building Maint/Sup line item, which went from \$2,500 to \$1,032. RA McDanolds stated that in 2014, the heat exchanger needed to be replaced on the waste-oil furnace, which had a portion of the warranty remaining. She then asked about the Culverts line item -- the Department request was for \$49,000 and TM English recommended \$4,000. RA McDanolds stated that the Stonecrest repair job had been moved to a Warrant Article. The discussion then turned to the replacement truck. Wayne Fortier asked RA McDanolds what the cost difference was between the two types of trucks (Ford 550/Dodge 5500 Series and the International) and RA McDanolds responded that it was between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Chairman Luurtsema asked if the more expensive truck was more durable than the others. The more expensive truck warranted the wing where there was a question of whether the others would. Chairman Luurtsema asked again about the durability. Dan Brady suggested contacting 6 towns of comparable size to Haverhill and inquire as to what trucks they have. TM English stated that (1) everyone agrees there needs to be a replacement truck and (2) everyone is comfortable with the idea of a truck with a wider plowing capacity. The question now is: what truck? TM English feels that both trucks would do

the job. The Committee decided not to vote on the replacement truck at this time as they felt they needed more information on the trucks. Dick Fabrizio made the motion to approve the Highway budget without the truck; seconded by Barb Dutile. All voted in the affirmative, except Howard Hatch, who voted in the negative. The motion passed.

AA Lacaillade stated that the Fire Departments could not attend the meeting on January 28th as it conflicted with another meeting of theirs. It was agreed that the Libraries/Warrant Articles would be asked to attend on the January 28th and the Fire Departments would be asked to attend on February 4th. AA Lacaillade stated that the handout was the answers to the questions that were asked at the last meeting, such as taxes paid by the utilities, trustee fees, percentage of delinquent taxes and fuel oil quotes.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 7th at 7:00 pm.

Barb Dutile made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Laraine King and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde