

Advisory Budget Committee
Amended and Approved Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2015

The following members were present: Christopher Luurtsema, Dick McDanolds, Barb Dutile, Dick Fabrizio, Andrew Maffei, Laraine King, Jon Hobbs, Dan Brady, Peter Conrad and Howard Hatch. Also present: Selectboard members Wayne Fortier, Lynn Wheeler, and Tom Friel; Town Manager Glenn English; Admin. Asst./Finance Officer Jo Lacaillade; and Clerk Karen Hyde.

Members of the Public: Road Agent Stuart McDanolds, Louise McGee, Carole Kendall, Patricia Roy, Dawn Langley, Ethel Woodard, Jeanne Robillard, Debra Simmons, Tina Hebert, Glenna Ackerman, Audrey Clough, Debi English, Vesta Smith, Darwin Clogston, Deb Foster, Roberta Berner, David Wilson, Kim Conrad, Carrie Quinn, Eleanor Ingbretson, Greg Roche, Linda Rae, Jane McKay, Sarah Young-Xu, Sandra Holden-Knapp, Maryellen Kirkpatrick, James Kirkpatrick, Douglas McDonald and Keisha Luce

Christopher Luurtsema called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Dan Brady asked to have the Minutes of the 1/14/2015 Meeting amended. On Page 2, the Minutes read “seemed like Haverhill had a lot of felonies and was wondering what was drawing the felons here.” He would like the Minutes to read “a lot of law enforcement problems have to do with low-income, absentee landlord rental property.” Dan made the motion to amend the minutes; seconded by Dick McDanolds and carried unanimously. Jon Hobbs made the motion to accept the amended Minutes; seconded by Dan Brady and carried unanimously.

The Committee then moved to the Libraries, which were level-funded again this year. All of the libraries had handouts that were distributed to the Committee members. Ethel Woodard of the Woodsville Library did a presentation for the library. They were looking to have a much more profitable year in 2015. They are also planning on having more fundraising events.

Tina Hebert, Treasurer of the Patten Library, then did a presentation for the Patten Library. She is also on the Board of Trustees. In 2014, the library did three fundraisers, which included two book sales and a Cookie Walk. They would like to do a lot more, but there are budget constraints. Dan Brady asked about the taxes that are paid and Tina responded that they were payroll taxes (Medicare and Social Security). He also asked if all four libraries pooled their purchasing and subscriptions together if that would save money. Tina didn’t think that that would save money. Dawn Langley, Librarian of the Woodsville Library, commented that the libraries do share books amongst one another.

Mr. James Kirkpatrick, Treasurer of the Haverhill Corner Library, did a presentation for the Haverhill Corner Library. The Haverhill Library Association has a very important role in the

community. They are open three hours a day, five days a week and Saturdays. They are asking for an increase in funding this year. This increase would help towards updating their computers and printers. He mentioned that there have been new demands for e-books and audio books. Laraine King had questions about the increase in 2014 payroll taxes. Mr. Kirkpatrick explained that they were doing catch-up as taxes hadn't been paid for a few years. The taxes would go down again for 2015. Laraine also asked about e-books and it was her understanding that the State would only allow one library in a Town to get e-books. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that 2015 seemed to be the year to focus on that issue. Dawn Langley thought that the fee for e-book access would be around \$500 a year, but she wasn't sure if that would be for all of the libraries in Town or individual libraries. Peter Conrad commented that Patten Library did a very good job with their report and suggested that the other libraries should follow their guideline. The other members of the Board agreed that there should be a common report among the libraries.

Kim Conrad of the Pike Library commented that their president couldn't be there and she was filling in, along with Librarian Carrie Quinn and other friends of the Pike Library. Kim commented that the Pike Library depends heavily on volunteers. She stated that in 2014, the Library did have a shortfall due to the increase in payroll costs. They are struggling to keep Pike Hall open and that wasn't looking good and that would affect the Library. There are not a lot of residents in Pike; between children and adult patrons, she was estimating 500 patrons in 2014. The Pike Library was also asking for an increase in funding from the Town. Howard Hatch commented that there were inconsistencies in the number of patrons reported by the Library and what was reported in the Town Report. Howard Hatch made the motion to level fund the Libraries; seconded by Barb Dutile and carried unanimously. Eleanor Ingbretson asked why there would be no increase in funding for the Libraries. Chairman Luurtsema stated that there would be an increase in taxes overall and they all feel that pain, but there has been a request for an additional police officer and a replacement truck for the Highway Department. The Committee understands that the expenses are going up, but the population and revenue are going down. Darwin Clogston stated that the Advisory Budget Committee was not the end-all-be-all; the Selectboard would get the budget next and then there was Town Meeting. Debi English, Librarian of the Patten Library, stated that the world is a different place now. If people don't have to go out, they don't go out; they stay in playing their games, watching tv, downloading books, but there are elderly people who do appreciate being able to get out to a library.

Lynn Wheeler stated that seven or eight years ago, there was a push to get the libraries to work together and the libraries did start sharing books between them. Lynn felt that the libraries now needed to work outside the box and come up with a plan for working together.

The following Warrant Articles were reviewed:

Ammonoosuc Community Health – Dr. Sarah Young-Xu did a brief presentation on what Ammonoosuc Community Health has done in the previous year and some of the new things they

will be doing in 2015. Peter Conrad made the motion to approve the request of \$6,000 for Ammonoosuc Community Health; seconded by Laraine King and all approved.

No. Country Home Health – Howard Hatch made a motion to approve the \$15,000 request; seconded by Jon Hobbs and all approved.

Horse Meadow Senior Center – Roberta Berner did a presentation on what Horse Meadow Senior Center does. Ms. Berner commented that Littleton was #1, Lebanon was #2, and Haverhill was #3 in utilization of the program. Ms. Berner also stated that there is not a town in Grafton County that isn't served. Dan Brady made the motion to approve the request of \$22,000 for Horse Meadow Senior Center; seconded by Barb Dutile and all approved.

White Mt. Mental Health – Jane McKay from White Mt. Mental Health did a brief overview of what White Mt. Mental Health does. Laraine King made the motion to approve the \$6,012 request; seconded by Barb Dutile and all approved.

Tri-County Community Action – Jeanne Robillard was filling in for Tri-County Community Action's contact officer. There seemed to be some discrepancies between Ms. Robillard's information and the handout that was presented to the Committee. The Committee unanimously decided to table this until the next meeting on February 4th, 2015.

Burch House – Ms. Robillard also spoke about Burch House, which is her program. Dan Brady made the motion to approve the \$2,840 request; seconded by Laraine King and all approved.

Alumni Hall (Court Street Arts) – Keisha Luce did a presentation of the programs that Court Street Arts has. She feels that these programs are very beneficial to the Town. People are coming from all over to attend events at Court Street Arts. Court Street Arts is also doing programs for school children. A motion to approve the \$12,000 request was made by Dan Brady, seconded by Barb Dutile; there was no vote. The Committee decided to table this until the next meeting on February 4th, 2015, pending a written budget or information about patronage from Court Street Arts.

Bridge House – There was no representative from Bridge House attending the meeting. Laraine King asked about the agency request of \$2,000 and the Town Manager's recommendation of \$0. TM English stated that it has been his policy for the last few years to level fund most of the outside agencies. This agency is out of Plymouth, NH and really doesn't serve the Haverhill area. Chris Luurtsema made the motion to not fund Bridge House; seconded by Dan Brady and all approved.

RSVP – Doug McDonald stated that RSVP stands for Retired Senior Volunteer Project. They provide security home patrols. Jon Hobbs made a motion to approve, seconded by Dan Brady and all approved.

Stonecrest Culvert Repair/Replace – TM English explained what was going on with this culvert. This culvert carries a perennial stream; the culvert is 92 feet long and the bottom is rotted out. It is in the process of failure and there were two options that he and RA Stuart McDanolds looked at. The first option was slip-lining the existing pipe with a smaller pipe and the other option was to take it completely out and replace it. To slip-line it, the cost would be \$1,000/ft. and to completely replace it, the cost was \$47,000. Howard Hatch suggested pouring a concrete box culvert. Barb

Dutile recused herself from voting on this Warrant Article as she lives in that subdivision. Howard Hatch made the motion to approve the \$45,000 culvert repair and to include this in the Highway budget instead of in a Warrant Article; seconded by Dan Brady; and all approved. TM English and RA McDanolds would check on the cost of pouring a concrete box culvert. Jon Hobbs made the motion to table the culvert project until the next meeting on February 4th so that TM English and RA McDanolds could get a cost estimate on the box culvert; seconded by Laraine King and all approved.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 4th at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde.