

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

JANUARY 14, 2016

PRESENT: Joe Spoerl (Vice-Chair), Dick Fletcher (Village Water Precinct Rep), David French, Scott Gross (BOS Rep), David Pierce, Bryan Fournier, Craig Campbell, Liz Mitchell, Mike Smith, Dian McCarthy (School Board Rep), Lee Sperry and Angela MacKenzie. Elizabeth Dubrulle (Chair) arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Excused: Dennis Lynch and Ruth Gage.

Acting Chair Joe Spoerl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 10, 2015

D. French moved, seconded by D. Fletcher to approve the minutes as presented. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. S. Gross abstained. Motion carried.

November 12, 2015

D. Pierce moved, seconded by D. French to approve the minutes as amended. Amendment: **Page 6, top line should read \$2.3 million. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. S. Gross abstained. Motion carried.**

November 17, 2015

D. French moved, seconded by B. Fournier to approve the minutes as presented. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Motion carried.

December 3, 2015

D. French moved, seconded by L. Sperry to approve the minutes as presented. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. L. Mitchell, S. Gross and D. McCarthy abstained. Motion carried.

December 8, 2015

D. French moved, seconded by L. Sperry to approve the minutes as presented. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. L. Mitchell and S. Gross abstained. Motion carried.

September 17, 2015

D. Pierce moved, seconded by B. Fournier to approve the minutes as presented. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Joe, Craig, Scott and Dick F. abstained. Motion carried.

January 13, 2016

D. French moved, seconded by B. Fournier to approve the minutes as amended. Amendment: Mike Smith was in attendance. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. Angela and Scott abstained. Motion carried.

SEWER COMMISSION REQUEST TO REDUCE LINE

Line 3261000062100, O and M Charges was cut to \$700,000. The number voted on was \$705,000. **D. French moved, seconded by B. Fournier to eliminate \$5,000 from this line. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. This will have a ripple effect in the default and the revenue line. The BOS will make the adjustments.**

TOWN ARTICLES

Article 13 - Fire Station

D. French moved, seconded by B. Fournier to recommend the article.

D. Pierce: It is advantageous because a bond will expire this year and the new bond will not start until 2017. The new bond would be about \$100,000 less than the current bond payment.

Voted unanimously in the affirmative. 13-0. Motion carried.

Article 14 - Budget

This number will reflect any changes needed to the default budget.

B. Fournier moved, seconded by D. French to recommend this article.

D. French: I think the BOS did an excellent job this year.

Voted unanimously in the affirmative. 13-0. Motion carried.

D. Pierce left the room.

Article 15 - Collective Bargaining Agreement/Professional Fire Fighters

A. MacKenzie moved to recommend. Seconded by L. Mitchell.

L. Mitchell: This saves money for the town over the long term.

Voted unanimously in the affirmative. 12-0. Motion carried.

Article 16 - Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund

D. French moved, seconded by D. Fletcher to recommend.

D. French: I think this is important and money will not be raised by taxation.

D. Fletcher: We need to appropriate money so it does not hit us all in one lump sum.

Voted unanimously in the affirmative. 12-0. Motion carried.

Article 17 - Harnesses for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Jaws of Life

L. Sperry moved, seconded by B. Fournier to recommend.

L. Sperry: It is time for them to be replaced.

Voted unanimously in the affirmative. 12-0. Motion carried.

Article 18 - Replacement Ambulance

L. Sperry moved, seconded by D. Fletcher to recommend.

L. Sperry: This is self-funded.

D. Fletcher: You have to keep replacing them from time to time.

Voted unanimously in the affirmative. 12-0. Motion carried.

Article 19 - Road Improvement Program

A. MacKenzie moved to recommend. Seconded by L. Sperry.

A. MacKenzie: Infrastructure is very important and we need to stay on top of this.

L. Sperry: I feel confident they will do a good job.

Voted unanimously in the affirmative. 12-0. Motion carried.

Article 20 - Main Street Program

A. MacKenzie moved to recommend. Seconded by D. Fletcher.

A. MacKenzie: We need community involvement.

D. Fletcher: I think it helps promote the town, Main Street and the businesses.

Voted unanimously in the affirmative. 12-0. Motion carried.

Article 21 - Crispin's House

D. McCarthy recused herself.

L. Mitchell moved to recommend. Seconded by L. Sperry.

L. Mitchell: Heroin overdose issues are huge in our neighboring city. Let's hope it doesn't come here, and if it does, we have programs like this.

L. Sperry: It is here. This program helps to keep kids off the street. It is a great thing all around.

S. Gross: The Diversion Program alone, saves the town a lot of money. It is well worth the community's investment.

Voted unanimously in the affirmative. 11-0. Motion carried.

Article 22 - Waterways Association - Manage Milfoil

L. Mitchell moved to recommend. Seconded by A. MacKenzie.

L. Mitchell: This is an ongoing issue and if we don't do anything, it will get worse.

A. MacKenzie: This also affects the environment of the river/lake.

E. Dubrulle: I think this needs to be in the operating budget every year.

S. Gross: We can amend this at the Deliberative Session so say if it passes, it will end up in the budget from thereon. We are a funding source, but we have a seat at the table and there is accountability.

E. Dubrulle: I think there would be more accountability if this item was included in the budget.

Voted unanimously in the affirmative. 12-0. Motion carried.

E. Dubrulle moved that the BC make a request to amend this article to include language asking that this item be included in the operating budget in future years. Seconded by L. Mitchell.

Vote: 10-in favor, 0-opposed. 2-abstained (Scott and Dian). Motion carried.

SCHOOL ARTICLES

Article 2 - Operating Budget - \$33,315,266

There was a question regarding the \$700,000. How were we going to treat this management reserve to cover the first year of the teacher's contract. Business Administrator Ray Labore distributed information on this issue. We did not presume the contract would pass. If it didn't, the credit would be returned to the taxpayers in the form of tax relief. We also looked at applying the management reserve to financing the first year of the contract. Where you will see the difference, if you look at the appropriation amount at the bottom of the page. \$6... The committee was concerned that the amount was being double counted. It would be used in the form of tax relief, or in the way of an offset of the first year of the contract.

L. Sperry moved to recommend this budget. Seconded by D. French.

L. Sperry: I think it was a great budget.

D. French: I would agree. It was one of the best school budgets we have seen in a long time.

Voted unanimously in the affirmative. 12-0. Motion carried.

Article 3 - Collective Bargaining Agreement - Teachers'

E. Dubrulle: Health care expenses were tightened up.

D. McCarthy moved to recommend the teachers' contract. Seconded by M. Smith.

D. McCarthy: I think a great deal and care was given to this contract. We tried to maintain costs, while also keeping the district very attractive.

M. Smith: I think the folks who negotiated this did a good job.

E. Dubrulle: One of the slides showed the average salary as compared to the State.

Superintendent Balke: Our teachers are paid below the State average. I believe we will remain at or below the State average. We will close the gap a little bit. We increased our starting salary for teachers. It was critically important to be able to compete in those salaries for special subjects.

Voted unanimously in the affirmative. 11-0-1 (D. French). Motion carried.

JANUARY 30, 2016
School Deliberative Session at 10 am
GHS Dr. Craig Hieber Auditorium

Town Deliberative Session
Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
GHS Dr. Craig Hieber Auditorium

Many seats are up this year. Please remember to sign up for reelection if you are interested.

ADJOURNMENT

D. French moved, seconded by D. Fletcher to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann Duffy