

TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

Location: Wilton Town Hall: Court Room

FINAL MEETING MINUTES January 15, 2015 – 7 PM

Members Present: Cary Hughes, Chair, Don Davidson, Vice-Chair, Harry Dailey, Donna Pucciarello, Caitlin Maki, Joyce Fisk, Joe Torre, Bill Condra, Selectmen Rep., and Dawn Tuomala, Secretary;

Town of Lyndeborough: Fred Douglas, Selectmen Rep.; Budget Committee: Corey Cheever, Don Guertin, Burton Reynolds, Scott Roper and Sandy Schoen; Russ Beland, Town Administrator

Town of Greenville: Town Administrator, Kelly Collins

Town of Mason: Selectmen: Charles Moser

Attendance: Pam Atwood; Jerry Greene, Treasurer; Steve Elliott; Gary Zirpolo and Rick Swanson

1. Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The budgets presented tonight have had a number of changes in them due to the salary increase that was approved at the joint Selectmen and Budget Committee Meeting last night. The various insurance lines were verified and adjusted with the new numbers for this year; as a result there is a decrease in insurance which has offset the increase in wages. In addition there was an adjustment made in the recycling center supervisor's income. Last year the salary increase was put entirely within the Highway Budget instead of dividing it between the two departments. This year an adjustment was made to balance the amount between the Highway Department and the Recycling Center.

2. Recycling Center

Mr. Elliott presented the recycling budget explaining that they had to put in a new sewage disposal system due to a high e coli count in the Souhegan River. This repair cost about \$10,000 in outside contractors to repair the system. This year, there will be a change in regards to trucking. Last year the company would pay the Town for the commodities and then charge the Town the trucking costs. This year, they are going to go back the way they used to do it and take the trucking right out of the commodities amount then send the Town a check for the remaining amount.

Mr. Elliott explained that there is a large \$70,000 surplus this year. This is due to a \$40,000 decrease in the expenditures and a \$31,000 increase in the commodities sales. The income was projected at \$100,000 and they were able to take in \$131,000 this year. The amount of income estimated for next year was left at \$100,000 since commodity levels fluctuate. This year, no warrant articles/capital expenditures are being proposed for the Recycling Center. Next year they will look at doing some paving of the center, installing some renovations due to

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an energy audit that is being conducted and they will need another bailer for the bottles and cans.

Mr. Elliott stated that the compactor went on line in April this year and there has already been a reduction in costs. In 2013 the average was 10.6 tons per load and with the compactor they are averaging 13.4 tons per load. This reduces the total amount of truck trips throughout the year and he feels this will result in a \$4,000 to \$6,000 savings. The Town has been erroneously receiving a service charge each time we ship which we weren't supposed to be getting so the company has agreed that there will be a credit of \$1,450 applied to 2015.

There was a question regarding the sand and gravel amount being over by a 200% increase. Mr. Elliott stated that the recycling company was complaining that they were getting pieces of concrete mixed in with the loads of bottles and cans. This was due to the deteriorating concrete in the loading area so they paved this area. At the same time they also repaved the entrance increasing to 2 lanes out for safety issues. On heavy traffic days they are now opening the gate earlier to prevent a line of traffic backing out onto NH Route 101. They put up a rope gate part way down the driveway so that they can achieve more stacking within the site; keeping vehicles off of the highway thus making the ingress safer.

Mr. Douglas asked why there was such an increase in the building repair line from what was budgeted last year. Mr. Elliott explained that they planned to revise the stair case that leads from the office down to the lower level. Presently this is all open to the outside and there is no insulation in the walls so the heat in the small office is lost. The office is heated by electric heat so it is hoped to reduce the amount of electricity used. This was one of the minimal changes that was recommended by the energy audit that they felt they could do this year. They plan to rebuild the stair case and close off the entrance at the lower area and to put in some insulation in the walls. These changes will prevent the cold air from coming up into the office.

3. Ambulance

Chief Zirpolo presented the Ambulance Budget by going down through the line items. They plan to install a new fire, CO and burglar alarm system in the building. This will be done in 2 phases the first being the fire alarm and then installing a burglar alarm system that will then be able to be tied into the fire alarm panel, thus saving some money.

MACC Base will remain the same at \$10,000 or \$5,000 for each town. The electric/gas line is up since they will have purchase propane this year to put into the tank for the generator. They didn't have to purchase any last year as they haven't had to run the generator for too long. Under the new equipment line there is an increase to purchase another repeater so that they can have service when they are in a poor reception area. The new ambulance was equipped with one but the older ambulance doesn't have one.

Chief Zirpolo explained that in the past they have run the new ambulance for three weeks and then ran the old ambulance for one week. They have changed that plan to run each vehicle 50% of the time to expend the life of the truck. The hours have been adjusted between the EMT's and the intermediate EMT's since they use more EMT's than intermediates. In the telephone line he is replacing the modem on the cardiac monitor with a wireless connection; this creates the \$700 increase in the line item. Having the wireless connection will provide for a hotspot; this will now enable them to connect both the cardiac monitor and the laptop at the

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same time. There will be a cost savings since the wireless connection will be \$30 per month while we are presently paying \$30 per month for the monitor and \$30 per month for the laptop.

There was a question regarding whether they will be able to have a reduction in the insurance after the alarm system is installed. This has been reviewed and no reductions are available. The class line has been lowered since there have been other organizations providing the same classes. The last time there was only 3 people attending the class which isn't cost effective; if a full class can be put together than he will do it.

There has been a request for two Capital Reserve items. The 2007 ambulance was purchased in 2009 and the plan is to replace it in the year 2020. Instead of putting money into a capital reserve fund for the vehicle they would like to put the money into an equipment capital reserve fund for the future purchase of the cardiac monitor replacement. Chief Zirpolo will try to stretch out the replacement of the cardiac monitors until the year 2022 but after 2016 they won't be able to get parts for them. Mr. Guertin questioned the cost of each monitor now verses in the future. The present cost for one monitor is about \$35,000 so Chief Zirpolo estimates that in the year 2022 they will cost about \$40,000 each, for a total of \$80,000. They are guaranteed for a life span of 7 years but he is going to try to get 10 to 13 years out of each. They were originally purchased in 2009.

Chief Zirpolo stated that this year he is requesting another Stryker Power Stretcher for the other ambulance. Since they use both ambulances 50% of the time it is better if they were both equipped the same; otherwise they have to try to remember to switch everything from one to the other. Plus if there is a second call then the other ambulance will have what is needed for the call. They had requested the Power Stretcher when they purchased the ambulance last year and it has helped immensely when there is a call for a heavier person; fewer people are required to lift the person, it saves injuries to the personnel and is easier on the patient.

Mr. Douglas questioned how many bids they have gotten for the alarm system and if they were going to get any more. Chief Zirpolo explained to establish an amount to be requested they obtained two estimates and that they would be putting it out to bid when it is time for the installation. Then he will go to the Selectmen with the quotes to determine who will put the system in.

Mr. Douglas had questions regarding the repeater system how and where it worked and if they spot checked it when it was installed. There was discussion about the various areas where it is still not be effective in and that it is similar to what the police have in the cruisers in Lyndeborough. There are the same dead spots that the Lyndeborough cruisers have. The antenna on top of Pead Hill has helped but there are still a few areas without coverage for MACC Base and there are a even more areas without coverage for KMA.

4. Public Questions/Comments – none

Chairman Hughes thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

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5. Other Business

Chairman Hughes stated that two of the Budget Committee members would be missing the meeting finalizing the budget on January 29th so he asked the committee to consider changing the date.

Motion was made by Mr. Davidson to change the meeting from January 29th to January 31st at 9:00 AM to enable all of the members to be present; seconded by Mr. Dailey; all in favor; Motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Torre presented an update regarding the sewer rates. The sewer commissioners are working on a rate increase but they haven't determined the rate increase at this point. They recognize the requirement to balance the budget between the expenses and the revenues; and that payment should be coming from the sewer users and not on the taxpayers in general. They just received their yearend figures last week and will be studying the issue during the coming month.

Mr. Greene stated he has many general issues with the Ambulance Department. He has concerns about increasing the building repairs line by the \$12,000 for the alarm systems. He feels that this amount should be found elsewhere in the budget. Look at the electricity line, why is there such an increase? Chief Zirpolo stated that this was due to having to fill the propane tank for the generator; they didn't have to fill the tank this year; in addition the electricity is going up between 6 to 6.9%.

Mr. Greene questioned why the lease amount is going up. Chief Zirpolo stated that it looks like a payment was missing but this is also a variable mortgage and that it will be reviewed in August. Mr. Greene wants the ambulance board to review the mortgage and consider refinancing. Chief Zirpolo will check but there isn't much time left on the mortgage and that he didn't think they wanted to renew the mortgage since there is only about \$33,000 left.

Mr. Greene questioned the amount of the various wages as there are large differences from this year to last year. These amounts will be verified. The amount of hours required to fill all of the hours of coverage will be checked. The hours were moved around since there are more at the EMT level than at the intermediate EMT level. Mr. Greene was also concerned with why Wilton is paying 17% of the account when the increase for the other 2 towns is only 11%. This will be verified.

6. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on January 22, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Wilton Town Hall.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Daily and seconded by Mr. Davidson; all in favor. The Budget Committee was adjourned at 7:57PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Tuomala, Secretary