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BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 4, 2016

Members Present: Carl Hagstrom, Virginia Doerpholz, Natasha Michelson, Martin Nolan, Ben Thomas, Fred Wilkinson, Win Wright and Selectmen's Representative, Nancy Carney

Chairman Hagstrom convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Benjamin Thomas presented that Water District Budget. They are requesting \$47905 with \$49,714 coming from revenue. The largest cost is for the filter system they are required to install.

Chairman Hagstrom opened the public hearing at 7:01 and explained the procedures. Mr. Hagstrom reviewed the budget worksheet reading each recommended line item.

Terry Silverman requested that an additional \$2888 please added to the Land Use line. They received an invoice in connection with a recent sound study that was completed. Winston Wright made a motion to increase the Budget Committee recommendation to \$71,359, the motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan, the motion passed unanimously.

Nick Noyes stated that he would like to request additional money for the Library and also discuss the cuts that were made from this budget. Mr. Noyes stated that the Judge had ordered an agreement with regard to the court case the library is involved in, they still have not settled and a trial date has been set for April 4. They would like to add an additional \$15,000 to the legal line of their budget. They agree to reduce line 210 by \$716 and \$1000 less from the heat and oil budget. Mr. Noyes stated that the building is in need of repairs, lights need to be replaced. Ben Thomas stated that they were given a directive from the Board of Selectmen that repairs to the sprinkler system were required. Ms. Carney clarified that this was not a directive, the system was inspected and these were items that the sprinkler company was recommending. Mrs. Favreau stated that a quote was given to the Library Director and was discussed with Gene Cuomo and was told to schedule the repairs. Martin Nolan stated that the price of oil is way down as well as shoveling expense for this year.

Gretchen Wittenborg stated that the litigation stemmed from an incident that happened between 1978-1984. She stated that the library is vibrant and thriving. Nancy Carney stated that the Board of Selectmen have done everything to support the library with the legal issue.

Gail Landy stated that the library addition is 12-13 years old, the carpets need to be cleaned. Barbara Green stated that they do not feel that only one person should be in the library at a time, there has been an increase in part time personnel. Gail Landy stated that they cannot have volunteers since library records are confidential, they have to have employees.

Fred Willkenson stated it is difficult to reconcile what the budget is and what was spent. Mac Landy stated that he is concerned with the price of oil he is under the impression that oil will increase substantially by the end of the year. Martin Nolan stated that he understands that the price of oil is stable.

Daniel Baker stated that he feels there needs to be an end to the legal fees. If the amount spent far exceeds the value of the outcome there is no end value. Susan Silverman stated that the fact of the matter is that items were taken that belong to the Town of Fitzwilliam. We tried to come to a settlement and the other party has not cooperated.

Martin Nolan made a motion to adopt the Library budget at \$135,805, the motion was seconded by Fred Wilkinson, the motion failed. Fred Wilkinson stated that the budget is up over \$4300 over last year.

Martin Nolan made a motion to recommend \$150,805 which includes an additional \$15,000 for legal fees, the motion was seconded by Fred Wilkinson, the motion failed.

Fred Wilkinson made a motion to recommend \$151,105 for the Library Budget, the motion was seconded by Martin Nolan, voting in favor, Carl Hagstrom, Winston Wright, Natasha Michaelson, Virginia Doerpholz, Benjamin Thomas abstain, motion passed.

Frank Bequaert questioned the assessing line and why we have line for assessing and capital reserve. Debbie Favreau explained the assessing process.

Winston Wright made a motion to recommend a total budget of \$2,405,842, the motion was seconded by Martin Nolan, the motion passed unanimously.

There be no further business Chairman Carl Hagstrom closed the public hearing at 8:40.

Respectively Submitted

Debbie Favreau
Town Administrator