

**TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
BUDGET COMMITTEE
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BUDGET COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, January 19, 2016
6:30 p.m. – Central Fire Station**

MINUTES

Present: Chairwoman Carla Lootens, Vice-Chairman Steve Brinser, Members Helen Hartshorn, Bob McWhirter, Tyler Phillips, Bob Theve, Selectmen's Representative Carolyn Sundquist, and Karen Koch.

Also in attendance: Selectman Lloyd Wood, Police Chief Shagoury, Fire Department members Chief Pike, Skip Galvin, Chris Morgan and Trustees of the Trust Funds and Cemetery Trustees Chairman Susan Weeks.

OPEN MEETING: After declaring a quorum, Chairwoman Lootens opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHAIRWOMAN COMMENTS: In the event that any budget committee members didn't receive the email attachment with Bob McWhirter's additional questions for Chief Thompson, in regards to warrant article #1, Chairwoman Lootens provided printed versions of the questions.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairwoman Lootens called for review and approval of the January 5, 2016 minutes. Minor clarifications were noted.

Motion: Selectwoman Sundquist moved to accept the minutes with clarifications, seconded by Helen Hartshorn. Vote passed 7-0.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chairwoman Lootens stated that the email correspondence received from Chris Sawyer, of the Planning Board, would be reviewed later in the meeting during budget reviews.

NEW BUSINESS:

BOS AND/OR COUNTY UPDATE, MEMBER/SELECTWOMAN SUNDQUIST:

In regards to Budget 4152, Selectwoman Sundquist shared that the Assessing Contract for Wood and Sansoucy increased. The new requested total for budget line 4152 is \$44,620.

Motion: Vice-Chairman Brinser moved to approve budget 4152 for \$44,620, seconded by Tyler Phillips. Vote passed 7-0.

A summary of 2016 Estimated Revenue was reviewed by the budget committee.

BUDGET REVIEWS:

WARRANT ARTICLES

RESCUE/AMBULANCE-CHIEF ADAM THOMPSON:

Discussion ensued regarding the first warrant article listed on the Schedule of Articles Recommended by the Board of Selectmen for the 2016 Town Warrant. This article is "to authorize a five-year lease/purchase agreement for \$425,000 to obtain and equip a replacement multi-response vehicle and a new ambulance and to raise and appropriate \$85,000 for the first year's lease payment".

Bob McWhirter prepared questions, in advance, in regards to the request for the new rescue truck and ambulance. Chief Thompson provided written responses to initial questions received. Additional questions were received, with late notice, prior to the meeting and were therefore not included within Chief Thompson's written correspondence. Written information, for these additional questions, will be provided by Chief Thompson subsequent to this meeting.

Chief Thompson addressed Bob McWhirter's questions and answered new ones from budget committee members in regards to the longevity of the equipment, NFPA standards, volume of response calls, personnel qualifications present within the Fire Department to operate an ambulance, the pros and cons of using the current ambulance service, the pros and cons of the town having their own ambulance, etc. Discussion also involved purchasing vehicles outright versus lease purchases.

Motion: Helen Hartshorn moved to accept the first warrant article for \$425,000, Bob Theve seconded. Vote did not pass 3-4. Bob McWhirter, Vice-Chairman Brinser, Chairwoman Lootens and Tyler Phillips opposed.

Second Motion: Vice-Chairman Brinser made a second motion to table the warrant article and re-open the discussion after the additional responses from Chief Thompson could be reviewed and different finance options researched, seconded by Bob Theve. Vote passed 7-0.

ROAD PREPARATIONS & PAVING-ROAD AGENT JIM BEAN:

Discussion ensued regarding the 2nd warrant article listed on the Schedule of Articles Recommended by the Board of Selectmen for the 2016 Town Warrant. This article is "to raise and appropriate \$235,000 for the paving of town roads and road improvement projects".

Bob McWhirter prepared questions, in advance, in regards to this article as well. Road Agent, Jim Bean, addressed Bob's questions, as well as answered additional questions from other budget committee members. There was discussion about the same amount being requested each year for road maintenance, while members shared differing opinions about the quality of the roads themselves. Jim shared a list of roads in need of repair and upcoming planned projects.

Motion: Bob Theve moved to accept the second warrant article for \$235,000, seconded by Tyler Phillips. Vote passed 7-0.

WARRANT ARTICLE #3:

This article "to raise and appropriate \$150,000 to improve Lang Pond Road" was discussed. Selectwoman Sundquist stated that the Selectmen have revised this request to \$160,000. The Selectmen also voted to take \$100,000 from the undesignated fund balance to offset the amount to be raised by taxes.

Motion: Vice-Chairman Brinser made a motion to accept the third warrant article for \$160,000, with \$100,000 coming from the fund balance, Chairwoman Lootens seconded. Vote passed 7-0.

WARRANT ARTICLE #4:

This article "to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to the previously established Library Capital Reserve Fund" was discussed. This request has been decreased from the initial request of \$100,000. There was discussion of the probability of a new library being approved, particularly due to the library not passing the town vote three times.

Motion: Bob Theve moved to accept the fourth warrant article for \$50,000, Helen Hartshorn seconded. Vote passed 4-3. Bob McWhirter, Tyler Phillips and Vice-Chairman Brinser opposed.

WARRANT ARTICLE #5:

This article "to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to the previously established Police Facility Capital Reserve Fund" was discussed.

Motion: Helen Hartshorn moved to accept the fifth warrant article for \$50,000, Selectwoman Sundquist seconded. Vote did not pass 3-4. Bob Theve, Bob McWhirter, Vice-Chairman Brinser and Tyler Phillips opposed.

WARRANT ARTICLE #6:

An additional sixth warrant article was presented by Selectwoman Sundquist for a Contingency of \$5,000 to be held from the fund balance.

Motion: Chairwoman Lootens made a motion to accept this sixth article for \$5,000, Selectwoman Sundquist seconded. Vote passed 4-3. Bob McWhirter, Vice-Chair Brinser and Tyler Phillips opposed.

PLANNING AND ZONING BUDGET 4191

Correspondence from Chris Sawyer, Chairman of the Planning Board, requesting an amendment to the 2016 budget was discussed. The cost for completing the Master Plan is expected to be more than anticipated. \$5,000 is requested to be included for the Master Plan Review budget line 01-4191-03-680, thus resulting in a total of \$22,770 for the Planning and Zoning Budget.

Motion: Tyler Phillips moved to approve budget 4191 for \$22,770, seconded by Helen Hartshorn. Vote passed 7-0. Chairwoman Lootens asked that the Planning Board request for additional funding be noted as an example of a request needing more background information when being presented.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Meeting Schedule: An additional meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, January 26, 2016, at 6:30 pm at the Town offices.

Upcoming public hearing is Tuesday, February 2, 2016, with a snow date of February 3, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion made by Vice Chairman Brinser, seconded by Chairwoman Lootens, vote passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by: Karen Koch