



Finance Committee

Judge Welsh Meeting Room – 1:05 p.m.
February 11, 2014

Members Present: Mike Canizales, Duane Steele, Doug Cliggott, Raphael Richter, Catherine Russo, Stan Sikorski, and Clarence Walker

The meeting was called to order by Mike Canizales at 1:05p.m. At 1:15 a discussion of the budget packets will commence.

There were no public statements.

Mike Canizales stated that a copy of the information from Duane Steele will go to the next meeting on the 18th. There was much discussion regarding affordable housing by Duane Steele and Catherine Russo, with the agreement that affordable housing is non-existent in town. They discussed the need to look for alternative funding. Catherine Russo cautions that not all second home owners are uninvolved and uncaring about the community. An unidentified speaker discussed the need for affordable year round rentals, and the need to find ways to fund, help with loans, and possible tax abatements for property owners willing to provide year round rentals. Stan Sikorski mentioned that the town's restrictive building policies put a damper on builders finding work in town. Mike Canizales suggested that we do our best to have a surplus of money at the end of this process to use toward affordable housing. He wants to see a half million in the housing stabilization fund. His suggestions are increase parking fees 10% to obtain \$75,000 from parking fees at the airport and/or whale boat, wharf, and ferry embarkation, and a freeze on new hires in senior staff. He suggested leaving \$75,000 in the budget for legal fees since we are likely facing more litigation.

School Budget: there is a possible grant for school improvement that must be submitted by October 30th. We must guarantee that we will submit it in order to be considered by the grantor.

Police Station: A further suggestion is to move the design study to Fall town meeting. The flood plain data needs to be resolved. The next phase of the architectural study must go through the bidding process. Duane Steele stated that the requirements for the police station were apparently the "wish list" of the former police chief. We should wait until we have a new police chief before proceeding. Clarence Walker and Duane Steele state that they have been working with the architect and building committee on Shank Painter Building.

Legal Budget: Mike Canizales also suggests that we put our legal budget out to bid/tender with the target being \$200,000 keeping a reserve on \$75,000. This needs to be discussed with the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen.

Purchasing Agent: Clarence Walker stated that the State requires that we have a designated purchasing agent responsible for all town purchases in order to have oversight. The building committee is not a purchasing agent. This is a job that has fallen to the Town Manager or Assistant Town Manager in the past.

Mental Health Budget: Mike Canizales suggested that we make an adjustment to the Gosnold Budget as our contribution is very small, and we are an area that Code Blue to help people stay in and maintain their homes, and possible rental stock.

Clarence Walker stated that the bos will be 60% new, and we will have a new town manager, and police chief also. Duane Steele stated that he would like to see a moratorium on any action on the police department building until a new town manager, police chief, and Board of Selectmen are in place.

Airport Commission:

The airport commission had their budget presented by Butch Lisenby, and Rob Tosner, Airport Commission Chair. They explained that most of the monies that they receive come from the federal government and because of their location in the national seashore, different rules apply. When questioned at much length about the possibility of parking fees at the airport, they are concerned that it would be detrimental to the airport's business. Butch Lisenby says they are looking for level funding as they have received no new numbers from the Federal Government. Rob Tosner, says we need 10,000 passengers to reach a profitable number for the airport, and we have lost hundreds of flights, due to weather. Mike suggests a small airport parking fee, but the airport chair, a says they are losing passengers the to ferry, and questions whether parking fees would be detrimental to the airport business. A very lengthy discussion of parking fees, summer/winter, in person/app ensues. If this happens it will most likely be by kiosk and be monitored by the parking department. Software is available for paying parking fees by app.

Parking Department:

The parking departments budget of \$98,450 was approved 7-0-0 after a motion by Raphael Richter, seconded by Duane Steele.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Mike Trovato and Deputy Chief Jim Roderick represented the fire department. They explained that they are trying to keep their budget low, but include a small raise for the fire chief who has no benefits and is on call 24/7. The chief credits Jim Roderick and Gerard Menangas with helping him manage the department. While we have some new people coming in, we need more first responders trained in order to have backup. When questioned if we are ok on personnel for the next 5-10 years, 5 years yes and 10 years maybe. He explained that the budget amount includes replacing the metal doors which are 20 years old with glass doors. The chief and Jim Roderick went to demonstration of an amphibious vehicle which was not at all suitable for our needs. He suggests that we take the hummer that was paid for by the Federal Government and is now at the main station and refurbish it to a utility truck that would be usable on the beach. The fire department budget of \$652,553 is approved 7-0-0 after being moved by Clarence Walker and seconded by Raphael Richter.

Ambulance Service:

The ambulance service was represented by Steve Roderick and John Thomas. They report that they have reduced their budget greatly with re-staffing, and the way they utilize the employees and are asking for 2.81% increase which is the lowest in recent years. Their budget of \$791,022 is approved 7-0-0 after being moved by Raphael Richter and seconded by Catherine Russo.

210 Police Department:

Acting Police Chief Jim Golden reports that he is coming in with level funding, but that some of his items are variable expenses and not controllable. The MMA report came out after the budget process started so that we are on track for the detective and regular police but not for hiring our summer part-timers. The marine patrol officer was moved back to his previous job as a detective. We only have three detectives so we do not have them on duty for 24 hours, but from 8am to 1am. The police department budget (after reconsideration) is changed from \$2,344,967 to \$2,320,657 to reflect a lesser figure being paid for the new police chief. The original number of \$2,344,967 was approved by 7-0-0 after being moved by Doug Cliggott and seconded by Clarence Walker. The second figure of \$2,320,657 was approved by 7-0-0 after being moved by Raphael Richter and seconded by Doug Cliggott.

211 Police Station:

No vote was taken and the police station budget was moved to 192 Buildings and Grounds.

Parking Department:

Dominic Rosario, representing the parking department, suggested that the possibility for generating more parking revenue is to meter spots from the Boatslip west. The Town Moderator emphatically stated that metering the east end would be detrimental since there are no side streets for parking and very little space for residents use. Mike Canizales suggested that D Rosario and MJ Avellar talk. The continuing lengthy discussion regarding parking was opened by Mike Canizales who suggested a 10% increase in parking fees across the board. An hour discussion follows. Fees and revenue of the Grace Hall Lot were discussed with monies which were paid to the Arch Diocese of Fall River to allow us parking. Our swap of parking and payment for the benefit of Seashore Point was discussed. The parking budget of \$438,325 was approved 7-0-0 after being moved by Raphael Richter and seconded by Clarence Walker.

123 Town Manager:

The budget of \$278,076 was approved 7-0-0 after a motion was made by Rapheal Richter and seconded by Clarence Walker.

Legal Services:

The legal services budget of \$240,000 was approved 7-0-0 after a motion was made by Doug Cliggott and seconded by Duane Steele. There were lengthy comments from Mike Canizales regarding the town not putting our legal budget out to bid for 30 years. He offered suggestions regarding interviewing legal firms and having them bid on representing our town.

169 Licensing:

Licensing represented by Aaron Hobart. The budget of \$43,648 was approved 7-0-0 after a motion by Doug Cliggott and seconded by Catherine Russo.

181 Building Committee:

The Building Committee, represented by Donald Murphy, had its budget of \$5,500 approved 7-0-0 after a motion by Raphael Richter and seconded by Clarence Walker.

240 Inspections:

The budget of \$178,975 was approved 7-0-0 after a motion by Raphael Richter and seconded by Clarence Walker.

The Departments listed below were approved by consent agenda:

113 General Government

Elections and Town Meeting

Budget of \$14,036 was approved 7-0-0

122 Board of Selectmen

Budget of \$63,440 was approved 7-0-0

156 Administration

Budget of \$59,590 was approved 7-0-0

157 Land Bank

Budget of \$131,325 was approved 7-0-0

161 Town Clerk

Budget of \$113,358 was approved 7-0-0

171 Conservation Commission

Budget of \$8,190 was approved 7-0-0

175 Planning Board

Budget of \$1,940 was approved 7-0-0

176 Zoning Board of Appeal

Budget of \$2,700 was approved 7-0-0

179 Historical Commission

Budget of \$500 was approved 7-0-0

180 Historic District Commission

Budget of \$2,250 was approved 7-0-0

Public Safety

291 Emergency Management

Budget of \$9,910 was approved 7-0-0

294 Harbor Committee

Budget of \$700 was approved 7-0-0

295 Harbor Master

Budget of \$118,263 was approved 7-0-0

296 Shell Fish

Budget of \$57,293 was approved 7-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Maghi Geary