

Board of Selectpersons & Budget Committee Meeting

Tuesday / January 13, 2009 / 6:30 p.m./ Town Office

Meeting Convened 6:30 p.m./ Adjourned 8:05 p.m.

Officials in Attendance:

Melanie Jewell	Selectperson, Chair	Jack Sutton	Budget Com, Chair
Ricky Damren	Selectperson, V. Chair	Greg Connors,	Budget Committee
Dan Newman	Selectperson	Gayle Finkbeiner,	Budget Committee
Richard Carey	Selectperson	Dennis Purington,	Budget Committee
Dennis Keschl	Town Manager	Doug Mather	Budget Committee
Pam Tracy	Treasurer	Tom Streznewski,	Budget Committee
Scott Damren	Facility Maintenance		

Melanie Jewell opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m... Jack Sutton requested the Board allow for additional articles to be discussed other than what is presented on the agenda. The Board agreed to allow discussion on the following additional articles; article 33, 34, 36, 40, 41.

Article #3 – The Town Manager addressed the amendment to the Belgrade Transfer & Recycling Ordinance. He stated because there is no authority within the ordinance to take enforcement action against individuals who are disposing of waste illegally, this amendment will allow for violators to be held financially responsible. Ricky Damren made a motion to accept the article. Dan Newman seconded the motion.

Selectpersons – For 4 / Against 0 / Absent 1 (Chris Merrow) (Please see the attached amendment to the ordinance)

Article #14 – There was some discussion regarding the third section of this article that stated to “use \$0 of surplus funds to be dedicated to reducing 2009 property taxes.” The Town Manager explained the reason that this year the amount is \$0 is because of the number of high expenditures over the last few years and we have pulled from the undesignated fund and used up the overlay to help aid with keeping the reduction of taxes. Currently we have approximately \$650,546.25 left in the general fund before we go out for the tan note. The Town Manager said that he would like to get together with the budget committee after the town meeting to discuss making a financial plan for the future, so that the town is not in this position in the future. Jack Sutton recommended that there be a period after the \$162,832.69, because placing the \$0 in the article may generate some negative conversation. The Board agreed to place a period after the \$162,832.69

The board reviewed the fourth section of Article # 14. Dennis Purington asked what the percentage of interest that is charged on taxes paid after October 16th, 2009, and whether or not this could be reduced given the present economy. Dennis asked what the maximum charge is and what was taken in interest. The maximum charge would be 9% and what was taken in was \$27,545.46. Dennis would like to see the interest reduced to 7%, as he feels people have a hard time paying their taxes. Ricky Damren

made a motion to reduce the rate of interest paid on taxes after October 16th, 2009 to 7%. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**
Ricky Damren made a motion to accept article 14 as amended. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **Selectpersons – For 4 / Against 0 / 1 Absent (Chris Merrow)**
Budget Committee – For 6 / Against 0

Article #17 – Ricky Damren made a motion to accept Article #17. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **Selectpersons – For 4 / Against 0 / Absent 1 (Chris Merrow)**
Budget Committee – For 6 / Against 0

Article #18 – Ricky Damren made a motion to accept Article # 18. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **Selectpersons – For 4 / Against 0 / Absent (Chris Merrow)**
Budget Committee – For 6 / Against 0

Article #25 - Ricky Damren made a motion to accept Article # 25. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **Selectpersons – For 4 / Against 0 / Absent (Chris Merrow)**
Budget Committee – For 6 / Against 0

Article #26 – Ricky Damren made a motion to accept Article # 26. There was some discussion concerning the language of the article. Ricky Damren made a motion to rescind his vote. Dan Newman rescinded his second. Ricky Damren made a motion to accept the article as amended. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **Selectpersons – For 4 / Against 0 / Absent 1 (Chris Merrow)** **Budget Committee – For 6 / Against 0**

Article #27 - Ricky Damren made a motion to accept Article # 27. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **Selectpersons – For 4 / Against 0 / Absent 1 (Chris Merrow)**
Budget Committee – For 6 / Against 0

Article #48 – Ricky Damren made a motion to accept Article # 48. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **Selectpersons – For 4 / Against 0 / Absent 1 (Chris Merrow)**

Article #57 – Ricky Damren made a motion to accept Article # 57. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **Selectpersons – For 4 / Against 0 / Absent (Chris Merrow)**
Budget Committee – For 6 / Against 0

Article #58 – Ricky Damren made a motion to rescind the original motion to accept the article and to take up Article # 58 as amended. Dan Newman made a motion to rescind his second and seconded the motion to take up Article # 58 as amended.
Selectpersons – For 4 / Against 0 / Absent (Chris Merrow)

Article # 60 – Ricky Damren made a motion to accept Article # 60. Dan Newman seconded the motion. A discussion concerning the LD1 article ensued. Jack Sutton asked if the LD1 calculation is included in the overage. The town manager said yes, because there is a new base. The base can change at the Town meeting, but this will not change the amount in the LD1 article because the levy limit is based on last year.

Selectperson – For 4 / Against 0 / Absent 1 (Chris Merrow) Budget - For 6 / Against 0

A discussion ensued on the following articles:

Article # 33 – Jack Sutton said the snowplowing contract and the sand and salt seem to have increased significantly. The Town Manager said there was a 25% increase in the cost of salt and the contract for Bellavance has built in increases annually.

Article # 34 – Jack Sutton said the road committee held a meeting to discuss pursuing bonding for the sand & salt shed. He said with the loss of salt and due to exposure of the elements, that there is a significant loss of salt. He further stated that there are significant environmental impacts with the salt not being in a contained building. There have been discussions regarding building a sand/salt shed for \$400,000. There also have been discussions about spending \$25,000 this year for an engineering stud. Jack asked how the town absorbs these expenditures. He feels the idea of bonding for \$1,000,000 for the sand/salt shed along with road projects that need to be done would level out the payments for the next five years and would provide a cost savings. Jack said he would like to get some sense on how far the town would like to carry the bonding issue and therefore possibly defer some of the road projects that are in the budget this year.

The town manager stated that there had been some discussions concerning bonding for the sand/salt shed and road projects, but he had thought the discussion led to wait and investigate bonding for next year, as this year there is not a real assessment of the roads.

Jack said that he would agree to defer and delay this article on the engineering costs of \$25,000 until next year and include this amount into the bond cost. This will allow for time to research the permitting and to make sure the project of the sand/salt shed is doable in the location being considered. He felt the article could be reduced to \$5,000 or even \$10,000.

Dan Newman said originally he thought that this number of \$25,000 was placed in the budget to work on setting up a building fund for the sand/salt shed.

It was agreed after the discussion that this article could be lowered on the floor of the town meeting.

Article # 36 – Jack Sutton stated he would like to discuss the postponing of the work on the Depot Road, given the cost of the project. Jack said he would like to see this work deferred, especially if there is a decision to go to bond, he feels this road could be included.

Gayle Finkbeiner said that he agreed and he would consider changing his original vote on this article if the town definitely is considering going to bond.

Ricky Damren said that he thought Kevin said he needed to place a culvert in then the town could get by for another year.

The Town Manager said he thought the road commissioner had placed money in the regular maintenance budget to take care of the bump and the culvert on the Depot Road and possibly if there is a decision to go to bond for the roads and the sand/salt shed, the Depot Road could be included. The Town Manager would discuss the issue with the Road Commissioner.

The Board agreed to not reduce the article, and if after the discussion with road commissioner he is in agreement to not pave the Depot Road and to include it in a bond for the roads, then this article could be reduced on the floor of the town meeting. Only the paved sections of the road where the culvert is replaced will need to be paved for this year.

Article # 40 – Dennis Purington said he had requested this article concern the East-West Subdivision have an asterisk stating that 29.48% or \$5,296.41 of taxes collected comes to the Town, and the rest goes to the County and the School.

Article # 41 – The Town Manager said that the Town had placed a bid in for a generator for \$3,500 with the costs to come from the Community Capital Reserve Account; however there will be installation costs of approximately \$4,500. The reason the installation cost is so high, is due to the automatic switch which costs \$2,400. There currently is no additional money in the budget and he would like to increase the facility maintenance budget by \$ 4,500, which would bring the total of the article to \$48,333. Ricky Damren made a motion for the board to reconsider and accept Article #41, with the amended amount of \$48,333. Dan Newman made a motion to rescind his original second and to second the amended article. **Selectpersons - For 4 / Against 0 / Absent 1 (CHRIS MERROW) Budget Committee – For 5 / Against 1 (DENNIS PURINGTON)**

Ricky Damren made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m... Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSENT (CHRIS MERROW)**

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary J. Vogel, Executive Secretary to the Board of Selectpersons