

**Town of Belgrade**  
**Board of Select Persons & Budget Committee Meeting**  
**Monday / January 28, 2008/ 6:00 p.m./ Town Office**

Meeting convened 6:00 p.m. / Adjourned

**Officials in Attendance:**

<b>Melanie Jewell</b>	<b>Select Person, Chair</b>	<b>Jack Sutton</b>	<b>Budget Committee</b>
<b>Ricky Damren</b>	<b>Select Person, V. Chair</b>	<b>Doug Mather</b>	<b>Budget Committee</b>
<b>Richard Carey</b>	<b>Select Person</b>	<b>John Perry</b>	<b>Budget Committee</b>
<b>Chris Merrow</b>	<b>Select Person</b>	<b>Dennis Purington,</b>	<b>Budget Committee</b>
<b>Dan Newman</b>	<b>Select Person</b>	<b>Dennis Keschl</b>	<b>Town Manager</b>
<b>Greg Keene</b>	<b>Transfer Station &amp; Recycling Committee</b>		

**Review of Budget Articles # 22, # 24 and # 48.**

**(Note: Please see attached articles, spreadsheet handouts, LD1 handout and proposed list of potential cuts of the budget)**

**Article #22** - The Town manager stated the amount of \$234,632.08 of undesignated funds may not be the actual number. Because of this two options were presented to the Board. Either the number could be asterisked and state this is an un-audited number, or the Board could authorize the Town Manager to move forward with changing the number. Ricky Damren made a motion to accept article #22 and to authorize the Town Manager to change the number as soon as the actual number is determined. Chris Merrow seconded the motion. **Select Persons Recommend: 5 For / 0 Against Budget Committee Recommends: 4 For/ 0 Against / 1 Absent (David Leigh)**

**Article #24** – The Town Manager informed the Board there were a couple of changes made to the article in carry forwards. The total of the article was also incorrect. The corrected total brings the carry forwards to \$71,683. Ricky Damren made a motion to accept article #24. Richard Carey seconded the motion. **Select Persons Recommend: 5 For / 0 Against Budget Committee Recommends: 4 For / 0 Against / 1 Absent (David Leigh)**

**Article #48** – The Town Manager handed out a spreadsheet on the LD1 calculations. This article asks the voters to increase the LD1 tax levy limit to \$326,172.07. Jack Sutton asked what if this article does not pass. It was agreed upon that a plan should be in place in the event the article does not pass. Ricky Damren made a motion to accept article # 48. Richard Carey seconded the motion. **Select Persons Recommend: 5 for / 0 Against Budget Committee Recommends: 4 For / 0 Against / 1 Absent (David Leigh)**

Discussion on potential areas for cutting the budget:

Jack Sutton made a list of potential areas that could be cut. (Please see the attached list)

- Uncommitted balance of \$20,000 for Capital Projects for the Transfer Station
- Growth Management, there is a carry forward of \$2,800 and they could run on a smaller amount in reducing the budget by \$13,000
- The architectural design in the amount of \$20,000 could be cut. This item Jack feels is poorly designed to site and size with an assumption of a combined facility, and does not research the facility as two separate buildings.
- A delay in the work on the McGrath Pond Road would save \$193,000 with \$25,000 added back into the budget for the safety hazard of the culvert. The reclaiming on this road could be deferred.

- The paving of the Stevens Road, Jack views as a non-essential. There is a savings of \$40,000 in not paving.
- The elimination of the facility maintenance truck would produce a savings of \$49,500.
- The interest rates have come down and there could probably be an additional savings in Debt Service of \$10,000. Doug Mather agreed with this statement.

There was discussion on the proposed above recommendations of cuts.

Dennis Purington asked if then with this suggested cut there would be no work done to the McGrath Pond Road. Jack stated with this recommendation there would be no work done except for the culvert, which is a hazard.

Dennis Purington asked if the plan was when it comes to the end of the warrant and the LD1 does not pass is it the plan of the Board to go back through the budget on the same day? Melanie stated yes, the Board intends to go back to make the necessary cuts. Melanie would like to have attention called to the LD1 article at the beginning of the Town meeting as was done last year.

Ricky Damren commented he supported the purchase of the facility maintenance truck despite the lost revenue to himself as a contracted facility snow plower. Rick feels the truck would eventually be at a cost savings to the Town. Jack Sutton said ideally a truck would be a good idea, but if choices have to be made he would recommend removing this item from the budget.

Melanie Jewell said she thought perhaps PSAPS could be cut, but was unsure of the amount.

Melanie stated she hesitated to cut the architectural study, because it is necessary for the Town to look towards the future. She feels there is a cost savings in building a combined facility. There is a possibility that property is available on Rt. 11. An architect has drawn up a conceptual design that probably could be tweaked and perhaps the whole \$20,000 will not be needed. She feels if the library moves forward then we miss out on the opportunity for combined services.

Dennis Purington stated that the \$20,000 is to include water and sewerage disposal.

Jack Sutton stated if there was a concept study available at the Town Meeting, then people would be able to view it.

Melanie stated she felt safe in stating the recycling revenues would increase for 2008.

Dennis Purington said if everything passes as proposed there would be a 1.18 % increase in the mil rate. The Social Services are unpredictable as they are referendum questions and there could be possible cuts in this area. Dennis also mentioned the possibility of cutting the Fire Department and Rescue Reserve Accounts back.

Jack stated he feels that the Board and the Budget Committee needed to be prepared with some kind of structural approach for Town Meeting in the event the LD1 article does not pass.

Dennis Purington asked about article # 34 for the Chandler Road remediation. He stated he thought the amount needed to be raised was \$10,000 since there is already \$10,000 sitting in reserves. Ricky Damren commented that he thought the bids came in over \$20,000 so this is why we needed to raise the additional \$20,000.

Melanie Jewell commented there could be a cut in the dams budget to reduce it back down to \$15,000 and to raise the additional next year.

The Board and budget stated they would like to know what the cost number for the repairs for the North Belgrade Community Center.

There was some discussion on the LD1 article and if it did not pass whether or not there could be a continuation or adjourning of the meeting until another day. Also discussed was whether or not a list of items to be cut could be available and a one time cut could be made to the budget. These items will be looked into.

Doug Mather stated if there are cuts made the LD1 article would have to be calculated and re-voted on the floor of the Town Meeting.

Ricky Damren made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m.. Richard Carey seconded the motion.

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