

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO
BUDGET COMMITTEE
November 29, 2016
Minutes**

Members Present: John MacDonald, Chairman, Bob Tougher, Vice-Chairman, Luke Freudenberg, Selectmen's Representative, Steve Johnson, Brian Black, John Burt, Robert Loughman, Bob O'Brien, Bob Moholland, Members.

Member Absent: Harold Parker, Member.

Staff Present: Dave Owen, Town Manager, Pete Chamberlain, Finance Director, Dave Ford, Director of Public Works, Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

Chairman MacDonald called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM at the Great Hall.

Other Business

01-49617-732 Winter Harbor Watershed Improvements; \$40,000

John MacDonald stated Dave Ford forwarded an email to the Committee from Mr. Muir who expressed concern that the Committee cut the funding for the Winter Harbor Watershed Improvements.

Dave Ford stated that although Whitegate Lane is a private road, the erosion is caused from Town roads. He stated \$20,000 was appropriated in 2016 to prepare a study and design of BMP's to mitigate the issues; noting the 2017 funding request includes the implementation of BMP's identified in the study. He noted the importance of continuing to move in a forward direction in order to receive State grants for future improvements.

Bob Tougher stated the Town has done a lot of work on Forest Road and Forest Road Extension relative to drainage and recommended the Town continue to address drainage issues on other Town roads that is causing the stormwater runoff. He stated spending money on a private road is unprecedented; noting the property owners have the option to petition the Town to have the road become a Town road.

Dave Ford stated the Town is being proactive with regard to protecting the lake; noting the Town roads are causing the erosion.

Bob Tougher noted the State owns the lake.

Dave Ford stated the Town needs a watershed management plan to qualify for grant money. He stated erosion and stormwater runoff can be controlled; noting such is the basis of the funding request.

John Burt verified the request includes working on private roads paid by taxpayers. He questioned the legality of such.

Dave Ford stated private properties on Town roads are discharging down onto a private right-of-way and creating erosion and further discharge into Winter Harbor. He noted the lake is the Town's number one resource and should be protected.

Steve Johnson stated he is not in favor of the request and would rather see more emphasis on work being done within the road budget to address culverts and storm drainage.

Brian Black questioned whether funding \$20,000 of the \$40,000 that was requested would assist toward acquiring grants.

Dave Ford replied yes.

Brian Black stated the Committee reduced the funding request in part because of the inability of the department to accomplish the project. He questioned whether such has changed.

Dave Ford stated he would like to continue moving forward with the project; noting such helps manage an asset of the Town.

John MacDonald questioned what the grant would pay for if the Town were to receive such.

Dave Ford stated that if the Town receives the grant, the State will then pay 75% of the total cost of the project.

John Burt requested Town Counsel opinion as to whether the Town can spend taxpayer money on private property.

Dave Ford stated he could provide details of the proposed project.

Hydrant Fees

Dave Ford stated there is an impact on the water department when the hydrant fee is cut; noting \$45,000 is a significant cut. He stated one option to offset the impact is to increase the water rates or utilize the unused balance of the Water Fund. He stated based on the Town's system and flows, the 20% appropriation is justified (as per the AWWA).

Bob Tougher stated the fee was previously funded at \$50,000 and reviewed the history of the increase to such; noting there is a 25 year history of funding being much lower than 20%. He stated the increase to the hydrant fees has been climbing since 2010; noting that after analyzing the water rates, the town wide study and funding history, he determined an average of 16%. He noted that 60% of property owners are not on Town water and noted inconsistencies between the Town and Statewide comparisons.

Dave Ford stated the upgrades to the Water Treatment Plant caused the increase and noted the water system benefits the entire Town. He stated that when the rate study was being conducted in 2014, the goal was working toward 20%.

John MacDonald stated he is comfortable with the Committee's decision to decrease the appropriation based on the funding history.

John Burt stated a total value should not be established as a guide rather, a percentage should be established.

Bob Tougher stated the decrease to \$300,000 is based on 16.7%; noting the \$45,000 decrease is less than 3% of the budget.

Brian Black questioned whether a relationship could be determined between taxpayers and rate payers.

SANITATION

SEWER COLLECTION

No changes.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

No changes.

WATER DISTRIBUTION & TREATMENT

DISTRIBUTION SERVICE

No changes.

TREATMENT PLANT

No changes.

WATER FUND CAPITAL OUTLAY

02-49617-760 Repairs to Water Department Backhoe; \$15,000

Dave Ford stated the equipment has a loose bore and pin; noting such is a major rebuild and a safety issue. He stated the repair would extend the life of the equipment valued at \$125,000.

02-49617-761 WTP Controls; \$20,000

Dave Ford stated the funding request is a continuation of the WTP control upgrade project that began in 2016.

02-49617-762 Clean and Coat 1MG Tank, WTP; \$70,000

Dave Ford stated the tank was constructed in 1996 and the sides of the tank are stained and in need of cleaning and coating.

04-49617-730 Repair Sewer Line at Huggins Hospital; \$40,000

Dave Ford stated that when the hospital expanded, the sewer line was rerouted around the building. He stated the Town hired Wright-Pierce Engineers to perform inspections of the work; noting the engineers signed off on the project. However, he stated the first manhole was constructed too high which created a dip in the incoming line; noting grease started to build up and caused a backup into an abutter's house. He stated the request would resolve the issue.

The Budget Committee has requested additional information for the following;

- 01-49617-732, Winter Harbor Watershed Improvements; Town Counsel opinion as to whether the Town can spend taxpayer money on private property
- 01-49617-732, Winter Harbor Watershed Improvements; Dave Ford to provide details of the proposed project

It was moved by Bob Moholland and seconded by Robert Loughman to adjourn the November 29, 2016 Budget Committee meeting. All members voted in favor.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley

Lee Ann Keathley

****Please note these minutes are subject to approval and amendments at a later date.**