

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD WORK SESSION
February 9, 2016**

In Attendance: John Rescigno, Robert Ferriere, Christina Goodwin

Christina called the Work Session to order at 1:15pm. The Board met to complete a final review of the proposed budget for 2016 and the Warrant Articles.

Budget Review:

The Board reviewed sections of the budget to determine if adjustments could be made to further reduce the budget.

Executive

The Board reviewed the suggestion by the Administrative Assistant to reduce the wage line. Bob recommended to start at the base line of \$17.53 and adjust up, which would be \$18.23. John recommended no change to the submitted amount of \$19.50. Christina reviewed possible alternatives, such as taking the difference between the low number \$17.53 and the middle number \$21.04 and averaging out, which would be about \$18.93. After further discussion the Board agreed to move on with the budget and return to the Executive budget.

Election/Registration/Vital Stat

The Board reviewed the Election/Registration/Vital Stat budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$53,889 for the Election/Registration/Vital Stat budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Financial Administration

The Board reviewed the budget for the Financial Administration. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$18,720 for the Financial Administration budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Legal expenses

The Board reviewed the budget for the Legal Expenses. Comments were discussed regarding the use of New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) and the need to use the Town's attorney for cases as well. There were no other questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$15,000 for the Legal Expenses budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Personnel Administration

The Board reviewed the budget for the Personnel Administration. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$90,994 for the Personnel Administration budget, Bob 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Planning and Zoning legal expenses

The Board reviewed the Planning and Zoning budget. During the public meeting there was discussion regarding the legal lines and the inflation of those numbers because of current cases.

The Board agreed that those numbers could be reduced. **Christina motioned to adjust the Planning Board legal to \$4,000, John 2nd, so voted. Christina motioned to adjust the Zoning Board legal to \$2,000, Bob 2nd so voted 3-0.** There were no additional questions from the public hearing to address and no additional recommendations from the Board. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$8,001 for the Planning and Zoning legal expenses budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

General Government Buildings

The Board reviewed the budget for General Government Buildings. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$23,655 for the General Government Buildings budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Cemeteries

The Board reviewed the Cemeteries budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$5,160 for the Cemeteries budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

General Insurance

The Board reviewed the General Insurance budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$14,872 for the General Insurance budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Advertising and Regional Assoc

The Board reviewed the Advertising and Regional Assoc budget. There was a question about whether or not the Town should continue with North Country Council (NCC). The Board agreed to continue with NCC at this time, but to look at the possibility of making some changes for 2017. There were no other questions from the public hearing to address and no other recommendations from the Board. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$2,200 for the Advertising and Regional Assoc budget, Bob 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Other General Government

The Board reviewed the Other General Government budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$3,802 for the Other General Government budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Police

The Board reviewed the Police Department budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$131,250 for the Police Department budget, Bob 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Fire and Ambulance

The Board reviewed the Fire and Ambulance budget. The Lakes Region Mutual Aid number was discussed in the public hearing. The spreadsheet was received and the value used for Groton's share was \$101 million which is more accurate than Christina was led to believe. The limited reduction was based on usage and the increase in the numbers only and not the inflated number of the Wind Farm from the first year. There were no other questions from the public hearing to address or additional recommendations from the Board. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$72,919 for the Fire and Ambulance budget, John 2nd,**

so voted 3-0.

Emergency Management

The Board reviewed the Emergency Management budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$1,850 for the Emergency Management budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Highway Administration

The Board reviewed the Highway Administration budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$95,883 for the Highway Administration budget, Bob 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Highway and Streets

The Board reviewed the Highway and Streets budget. A concern was raised during the public hearing that there was a large amount of money being spent on the Ford truck as the 4312.2 line was over-expended. The Board was unable to run a line report this week, but has discussed items spent in this line with the Road Agent, Glen Hanson. There were cutting edges purchased on some plows and it was believed that the repairs to the new Dodge, which had been in an accident, were paid for out of this line as the insurance check was not received until after the repairs were done. The Board will still get a detailed expenditure on this line, but they feel the number was not inflated by the Ford. It will be further discussed when the detail is received, but there are no recommended changes for this budget. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$63,651 for the Highway and Streets budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Street Lighting

The Board reviewed the Street Lighting budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$1,100 for the Street Lighting budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Land Fill monitoring

The Board reviewed the Land Fill Monitoring budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$6,600 for the Land Fill Monitoring budget, Bob 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Solid Waste Disposal

The Board reviewed the Solid Waste Disposal budget. A question was discussed in the public hearing regarding the recycle costs and the Board agreed that this number should be adjusted. **Christina motioned to change the recycling costs to \$4,000, Bob 2nd, so voted 3-0.** There were no other recommended changes. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$54,221 for the Solid Waste Disposal budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Health Administration

The Board reviewed the Health Administration budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$2,885 for the Health Administration budget, Bob 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Health Agencies and Hospitals

The Board reviewed the Health Agencies and Hospitals budget. There were no questions from

the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$3,928 for the Health Agencies and Hospitals budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Welfare Administration

The Board reviewed the Welfare Administration budget. It was agreed to eliminate the dues line for this year, as there was not a need. **Christina motioned to reduce dues to \$0, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.** There were no other recommended changes. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$0 for the Welfare Administration budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Welfare Direct Assistance

The Board reviewed the Welfare Direct Assistance budget. It was agreed that the Town does not provide direct assistance as it provides assistance to vendors, so it was agreed to reduce this line. **Christina motioned to reduce direct assistance to \$1, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.** There were no other recommended changes. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$1 for the Welfare Direct Assistance budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Intergovernmental Welfare Payments

The Board reviewed the Intergovernmental Welfare Payments budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$2,043 for Intergovernmental Welfare Payments, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Welfare Vendor Payments

The Board reviewed the Welfare Vendor Payments budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$5,000 for the Welfare Vendor Payments, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Parks and Recreation

The Board reviewed the Parks and Recreation budget. Concerns were raised about the Board considering electricity at the park during the public hearing and no final determination was made regarding this. The Board felt there were other things that could be accomplished at the park so it agreed to keep the budget the same. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$5,299 for the Parks and Recreation budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Library

The Board reviewed the Library budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$3,076 for the Library budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Patriotic

The Board reviewed the Patriotic budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$100 for the Patriotic budget, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Conservation

The Board reviewed the Conservation budget. There were no questions from the public hearing to address. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$1,980 for the Conservation budget, Bob 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Executive

Christina explained that the Board did not have to agree on this number but we did need to take a vote. She does not feel that it is appropriate for the Board to reduce pay after it has already given, which was the mistake of the Board in the first place to do before Town Meeting. Adjustments should have taken place after. With that said, Christina also feels that the position should be adjusted based upon the minimum number, the increases that Sara has received already and the Welfare position, so she doesn't recommend a change. There were no further recommended changes or discussion on this budget. **Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number of \$56,386 for the Executive budget, John 2nd, so voted with a 2-1 vote. Christina and John for the budget number and Bob against.**

Overall Operating Budget

Christina motioned to accept the proposed budget number for the overall operating budget of \$744,465, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.

Warrant Article Review

The individual warrant articles were looked at and discussed based upon feedback from the public hearing and the work session on the Transfer Station.

Article 5

The public hearing had a concern raised regarding the stock pile behind the garage and comparative costs to just purchase the material versus the grinding. Glen Hanson did have the pile measured and is supposed to have a quote on the amount of fill there and costs associated with it for the Board to review. The Board will move forward with grinding this year and will further review stock piling during the road project.

Article 9

The Board will work with the Trustees to get the money transferred and the number adjusted from the Capital Reserve Fund. The Warrant Article will be corrected.

Article 20

The Board agreed to add the purchase of a storage container for the Transfer Station to be able to start taking electronics. The container will be 8x8x20 and will be permanently placed beside the building near the front gate. The Board agreed to add the item if the container was \$5,000 or less and to add that the purchase will come from the general fund and not taxation.

The petitioned Warrant Article will be moved to Article 21.

There were no other articles to answer questions on or any other recommended changes from the Board.

Transfer Station Work Session

Dennis "Chip" Martin from North Coast Services met with Joe Koslow, Richard Cross and the Board to discuss options when the Transfer Station starts accepting electronics. Dennis provided a list of things that are accepted and that they would pick up and dispose of for the Town. The company takes everything with an electrical cord, although for some items it is better for the Town to cut the electrical cord off and recycle it only.

The Town could purchase or rent a storage container and when it is full, they call and the company empties the items into their truck and takes it back to be sorted, if necessary. They provide boxes (gay lords) to store material and other items can be stored on palettes.

The Board agreed that it is better to purchase a container than to rent and will look into adding to the Warrant.

Bob would like to have an excel sheet that tracks the trips made to recycle the material as we are currently doing, which includes employee pay, hours worked and number of trips etc. so that he can make a better judgement on the use of the new company.

The Board also discussed the cost of the proposed lighting addition near the C&D container near the front gate. The wires would be run underground to the corner. The quotes will be gathered but believe that this change could come out of the General Government Buildings budget.

Sanding of the Transfer Station was discussed. The Board agreed that the Highway Department should be there earlier to sand on days that the Station is open. Richard will also look into the possibility of purchasing a spreader of some sort to spread sand on his own.

Christina is still working on the flyer for the Transfer Station fees. It was also discussed that we should do some type of poster to have displayed as well.

Have no other items to discuss, **Christina motioned to adjourn the Work Session at 5:00pm, John 2nd, so voted 3-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Goodwin
Select Board Chair