

TOWN OF JEFFERSON
SELECT BOARD
February 11 , 2016

2019 Budget Hearing

Cindy Silver opened the Budget Hearing at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT: Cindy Silver, Chair; Kevin Meehan, and Tom Brady, members comprising a quorum of the Board.

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Cushman, Assistant to Selectmen; Mark Dubois, Highway Foreman; Chris Milligan, Fire Chief; Liz Milligan, Library Trustee Chair; Bernadette Nay; Chris Eaton; Mary Gross, Tax Collector; Jason Call; Debbie Dubois; Biff & Heidi Wyman; Polly Bronson, Town Clerk

Cindy presented the proposed budget by departments. The General Government budget spent in 2018 \$210,217 budgeted \$208,000, 2019 proposed budget \$262,000. It was asked if the increase in the budget was due to the school building. Yes, the increase is \$43,000. This was calculated by uses what the cost figures to date are and averaging this over a 12 month period. It was asked what has been spent to date for the school building. Expenses from October to the end of the year were \$1100 for the alarm system, \$1049 for electric, \$6617 for heating fuel and \$113 for repairs.

Public Safety spent for 2018 \$65,325, \$65,498 was budgeted and the proposed 2019 budget is \$65,498. The Highways and Streets spent in 2018 \$207,668, budgeted \$171,000 and proposed 2019 budget is \$187,000. It was explained that most of the overage in the Highway budget was due to unanticipated truck repairs. Sanitation spent in 2018 \$79,589 budgeted \$91,000 and proposed 2019 budget \$94,000. It was asked why if nothing was spent in 2018 for sanitation why \$10,000 is being proposed for 2019. It happens to be that the company doing the groundwater testing just did not do a billing in 2018. The work has to b done twice a year and will continue. Health spent \$12,248 in 2018, budgeted \$13,000 and proposed for 2019 is \$13,000. The question was asked what is covered by the Health. Support is provided to CAP, Red Cross, Weeks Home Health, Senior Meals, White Mountain Mental Health, Caleb, and a couple others.

Welfare spent in 2018 \$486, budgeted \$3000 and proposed 2019 is \$3000. Culture and Recreation spent in 2018 \$30,736 budgeted \$32,500 and proposed is \$34,220. Conservation spent \$450, \$450 was budgeted and proposed 2019 budget is \$400. Debit service spent in 2018 \$22,374, budgeted \$29,000, proposed is \$25,000. Capital Outlay spent in 2018 \$7800 budgeted \$10,000, no proposed expense for 2019. Operating Transfers out was \$3868 for 2018 proposed for 2019 is \$3000.

In reviewing the budget Cindy started to review the special warrant articles. For clarification purposes it was decided to go to the warrant articles.

Article 1 is the election of officials via ballot while polls are open, Article 2 is the total of the Operating budget \$688,118; Article 3 \$15,000 to be added to the Fire Truck CRF, \$5000 to the Fire Station CRF, and \$5000 to the FD Equipment CRF; Article 4 add \$2000 to Dump Closure CRF and \$2000 to the Transfer Station CRF; Article 5 to add \$40,000 to the Highway Vehicle CRF and to add \$5000 to the Highway Maintenance & Repair CRF; Article 6 to ad \$25,000 to the Building CRF. It was explained that this amount had been increased because this year the Board had not requested funds for the Library

Expendable Trust Fund. The building fund would include the Library.

Article 7 to add \$2000 to the Athletic ETF and \$5000 to the Cemetery Maintenance TF. It was asked what the Athletic TF covered. This fund covers capital expenses such as the batting cages that were added last year and things that are not covered under regular upkeep of the facilities.

Article 8 is to appropriate and withdraw \$5000 from the Cemetery Maintenance TF to do additional maintenance at the cemeteries. Article 9 is to raise \$16,500 to update the Master Plan. The Master Plan has not been updated in the last 10 years. Article 10 is to raise and appropriate up to \$220,000 for the purchase of a new Highway truck, body and plow. The funds would be withdrawn from the Highway Vehicle CRF. Article 11 is to expand the purpose of the Town Library ETF to include repair, maintenance, renovation, reconstruction, relocation or new construction.

Article 12 is to raise and appropriate \$40,000 for the purpose of doing a cost analysis of the former school building and to authorize the withdrawal of \$12,000 from the Library ETF to cover the cost of the Library portion, raising \$28,000 from taxation. It was explained that with the survey results that were received regarding reuse of the school building a cost analysis should be done. The input that the Board has received from North Country Council a cost analysis could be minor or it could be big. It was asked how do you decide what the criteria is to be for this analysis. What are the details you want. The survey results with 51% return showed that the number one use of the building was to relocate the Library there, number two was to relocate the Town Offices and third was to have a Senior Center. The Library Trustees have stated that they would stand behind the community wishes and the wishes of the Select Board. As for the Town Offices moving to the school building would give everyone there own space.

It was suggested that in doing an analysis that what would it take to make such a move and what is the cost going to be. Also what is ramification to the other buildings that will be left unused. At this time the specifics have not been determined. Who will determine what the criteria is. The surveys have shown what the residents want the building used for. Will this work be put out for bid.

There was much discussion as to what the guidelines would be for a cost analysis and how these guidelines would be determines. The Board is working with North Country Council to determine what the building can handle and what an engineer would recommend. It was asked if the study would include whether it is cost effective.

It was stated that input form the public, Library Trustees and what the needs are. You need something for a plan to get a true cost analysis. The Board stated they the are only in the beginning of the process and will be working with NCC as they move forward.

Article 13 is requesting an increase to the Select Board salaries to \$2000, being a \$500 increase and raise \$1500 for this purpose.

It was asked how the \$16,500 for the Master Plan update was determined. It was arrived at by estimates gotten from two separate sources.

There was some discussion as to the role of the Library Trustees and the Select Board and expenditure of funds. Who has the authority to expend the funds from the Library Expendable Trust Fund.

The Budget Hearing was closed at 8:25 pm.