

Hill Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

Nov. 13, 2019

Present: Paula McDonough, Paul Meyerhoefer, Kristen Cunningham, Charlie Estes, Jerry Desrochers, Bill Wilson, Steve Yannuzzi

Absent: Charlie Henry, Denise Robie, Selectman Representative, School Board Representative

Public: December Fortin (Parks & Rec), Karen Welch (Parks & Rec)

Meeting Business

Charlie Estes called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

Minutes from 11/6/19 were distributed and reviewed. Bill made a motion to accept the minutes, Paula seconded, vote was unanimous (5 in favor, 2 abstained because they weren't in attendance at the mtg.)

Old Business

None

New Business – Review of Departmental Proposed Budgets and Town YTD Budget

Parks & Rec – Committee Member December Fortin led the discussion

December presented the Parks & Rec proposed budget for 2020. She indicated that the cost to participate in TTCC programs would be increasing by \$1,941.00. She will get a breakdown from TTCC on the number of adults and children who participate in their programs.

Parks & Rec is planning to decrease their budget for park maintenance by \$1,000.00 b/c they want to start a Capital Reserve Fund. Money placed in this fund would be used for maintenance and/or replacement of playground equipment and work on the town pond.

December said that Parks & Rec and the Historical Society will be working together to write a grant to obtain funds for the work they plan to do on the town pond.

Steve suggested not taking the entire \$1,000.00 out of the budget for park maintenance but rather keeping \$500.00 in as a buffer so they don't have to tap into the fund earlier than intended. The Budget Committee was in agreement with this suggestion.

Charlie Estes asked what the status of the infield and basketball/tennis courts was.

Karen responded that the infield was all done but that the deal for the basketball/tennis courts fell through. Parks & Rec will continue to work on this.

Water – Water Commissioner & Chairman Jerry Desrochers led the discussion

Jerry indicated that the most noticeable change was that the checkbook balance had increased by \$15,865.00 from the beginning of the yr.

The Water Commission's proposed budget for 2020 is \$138,000.00. This is the same as it was in 2019.

Jerry informed the Budget Committee that there had been less repair expenses in 2019.

Charlie Estes questioned what the total revenue was. Jerry responded \$115,718.00.

Review of Town YTD Budget

4100 – General Government

4130 – Executive

Bill questioned how Payroll Taxes are accrued and reported.

Paula questioned why Telephone Services are \$900.00 over budget.

Charlie Estes observed that the Administrative Assistant's wages appear to be fiscally managed.

4150 – Tax Collector

Question about why Postage is \$743.00 over budget.

4194 – Govt. Bldg.

Question about why Maintenance is \$8,323.00 over budget.

4200 – Public Safety

4210 – Police

Question about why New Equipment is \$6,012.00 over budget.

Question about why Office Supplies are \$980.00 over budget.

Question about whether the offsetting revenue from Wages - Special Details are recorded somewhere else.

4220 – Fire

Question about why Medical Supplies are \$1,338.00 over budget.

Discussion ensued about looking into grants to help offset the cost of purchasing new/replacement equipment for the Fire Dept.

This led to further discussion of dept. budgets being approved at town mtg. but dept. heads are asked to hold off on big purchases until the end of the yr. to make sure funds are available. Often funds aren't available at the end of the yr. and dept. heads need to ask for the funds again in the following yrs. budget.

Townpeople don't understand why some items come up yr. after yr. This puts the dept. heads in a difficult position.

4310 – Highways & Streets

4312 – Highways & Streets

Question about why New Clothing is \$1,863.00 under budget.

Question about why Equipment Expense is \$8,331.00 over budget.

Question about why Professional Services are \$4,225.00 under budget.

Question about why Tools are \$1,944.00 over budget.

Total 4319 – Reconstruction of Highways

Looking to get a breakdown of the \$11,051.00 overage.

4320 – Sanitation

4324 – Solid Waste Disposal

Question about why Construction & Demolition is \$7,332.00 under budget

Payroll Taxes

Question about why they show up in YTD Expenses column but in the Budget column there is \$0.00. Is there a connection between this and the question asked about how they're accrued and reported?

Next Mtg. 11/20 @ 7:00pm

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Cunningham