Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present were Ronald Mitchell, Albert Akerstrom, Norma Patten, Sue Harris, Robert Chapman, Mark Roberts, Tracey LeClair, Roland Coffin, Gary Grant, Mark Ekberg, Selectman Ruth Mooney, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin and Parks and Recreation Director Janet Breton. Absent were Justin David Borden and Donald McLelland.

Minutes

Norma Patten moved the minutes of the meeting held on December 10, 2019 as written; seconded by Sue Harris. Chairman Mitchell asked for any omissions or changes, there being none, the motion passed with one abstention.

Parks and Recreation Budgets Including Town Beach

Parks and Recreation Director Janet Breton gave an overview of the department’s programming primarily focusing on the summer camp details. She also included a list of programs that the department offers in the community, including the ski program at Gunstock. She noted that her budget this year includes an anticipated 8 weeks of summer camp. The summer camp program averaged 50 campers per week in 2019 with about 15 on the wait list. She noted that an increase is proposed for the weekly fee for camp from $110 to $120 for Belmont residents and from $155 to $165 for those living outside of Belmont.

Sue Harris moved line items 4520-102 through 4520-723; the motion was seconded by Norma Patten.

Tracey LeClair inquired about in town vs out of town participation. Janet noted last year there were 63 kids from Belmont, 5 from Canterbury and 8 from Gilmanton. Tracey also inquired further about the ski program including fees noting that the schools no longer offer a program. There was discussion about the offset to the “other” programs run by the department; Janet explained that those revenues are deposited into a Special Revenue fund and are used to pay the coaches, etc., with 20% of the funds being retained by the Town.

Chairman Mitchell asked if there were any more questions, there being none, the motion passed unanimously.

Mark Roberts moved line items 4521-101 through 506; the motion was seconded by Tracey LeClair.

Tracey LeClair inquired about the increase in the Training and Certifications line; Janet noted that was to certify two of the camp counselors potentially as lifeguards so that they can oversee the campers at the Beach. Ron Mitchell inquired about attendance; Janet noted that it has been good with about 70 on the days the campers are there and then heavily attended on the weekends. TA Beaudin commented on the issues with the parking.

Chairman Mitchell asked if there were any more questions, there being none, the motion passed unanimously.
**Default Budget**

Albert Akerstrom moved the proposed Default budget amount of $7,778,705; Tracey LeClair seconded the motion.

Chairman Mitchell asked if there were any questions, there being none, the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike joined the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Chairman Mitchell reminded everyone that sign up for candidates for office begins on January 22nd and ends at 5 pm on January 31st. He also thanked everyone for participating this year in the budget process.

The public hearing on the budget will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Corner Meeting House. He encouraged everyone to attend so that there is a quorum for approval.

Norman Patten moved to adjourn at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Mark Roberts. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Ron Mitchell

Vice Chairman Mark Roberts

Roland Coffin

Norma Patten

Tracey LeClair

Norman Patten

Tracey LeClair

Selectman Ruth Mooney

Roland Coffin

Norma Patten

Tracey LeClair

Donald McLelland

Mark Ekberg

Gary Grant

Susan Harris

Albert Akerstrom

Robert Chapman