Budget Committee

Minutes – March 28, 2020

The Chair, Jeri Basko, opened the meeting at 9:15 A.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were, Jeri Basko, Chris Gilpatrick, Elaine Hartford, Deborah Wilson, David White, Chip Harlow, Skip Wood, Joyce Wood and Selectmen, Laura Bragg, Paul Philbrick, Corinna Cole and Charles Russell.

There were no minutes available from the March 4, 2020 meeting.

Charles Russell on behalf of the Board of Selectmen reviewed the draft Referendum for the June 9, 2020 Town Meeting. Only the articles with monetary implications were reviewed and a non- binding vote was taken after approval of the Committee to do so.

Art. 1 - LD1 $200,000 – If approved to go over, the plan is to add this to the road budget. If not, the road budget will be $300,000. Discussion followed concerning the current situation due to Covid 19. At this point in time the Selectmen are planning to continue with the June schedule. Motion by Elaine Hartford to vote on article – second by Deborah Wilson. Votes: Yes 4 - No 3

Art. 4 - $145,000 New Bridge Road bridge. Motion by Elaine Hartford, second by Chris Gilpatrick - Votes: Yes – 4 No – 3

Art. 9 - $12.00 per hour pay for Selectmen. Motion by Deborah Wilson, second by Elaine Hartford Votes: Yes – 7 No – 0

Art. 10 - $706,245, General Government. Motion by Elaine Hartford, second, Deborah Wilson. Much discussion followed Votes: Yes – 5 No – 2

Art. 11 - $20,000, Building Reserve Fund. After much discussion, motion was made by Chris Gilpatrick to reduce to $10,000, second by Elaine Hartford. Votes: Yes – 2 No – 5

Further discussion on the vote and the amount was followed by a motion to rescind the previous vote and to reduce the $20,000 to $15,000. Seconded by Deborah Wilson Votes: Yes – 4 No – 3.

 After further discussion of this article, Deborah Wilson made a motion rescind the previous vote and to stay at the $20,000. As there was no second and the motion was taken off the table.

Art. 12 - $17,500 Animal Control . Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Deborah Wilson. Votes: Yes -7 No – 0

Art. 13 - $40,000 Legal. Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Deborah Wilson. Some discussion on whether this would be enough. Votes: yes – 7 No – 0

Art. 14 - $50,000 Contingency Fund. Motion by Joyce Wood, second by Chip Harlow. Votes: Yes – 5 No – 2

Art. 15 - $78,090 Codes and Land Use. Explanation given that large % goes to Codes & Land Use with rest for Planning Board, Appeals Board and Conservation Commission.

Motion by Elaine Hartford second by Joyce Wood Votes: Yes - 7 No – 0

Art. 16 - $32,084 CMP No Spray. A suggestion was made to change he verbiage and have this go to a CIP account. Chuck explained that the new corridor that is proposed to go through Lebanon will be totally paid for by the State. Motion by Elaine Hartford, second by Deborah Wilson. Votes: Yes – 7 No – 0

Art. 17 - $5,060 Lebanon Recreation Department. Motion by Elaine Hartford, second by Deborah Wilson. Votes: Yes 7 No – 0

Art 18 - $431,044 Lebanon Transfer Station. Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Elaine Hartford. Question :how many employees at the station?” Answer “four but only two during the week and 3 during weekend. Votes: Yes – 6 No – 1

Art. 19 – $706,706 Highway Department. Motion by Elaine Hartford, second by Chip Harlow. Much discussion followed to include the Selectmen agreeing to asking about the West Lebanon Road and the topcoat. Votes: Yes – 3 No – 3 Abstain – 1

Art. 20 - $300,000 Paving Capital Reserve Fund. Motion by Elaine Hartford, second by Deborah Wilson. Votes: yes – 4 No – 3

Art. 21 - $10,000 Salmon Falls Watershed Protection Capital Reserve Fund. Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Elaine Hartford. Votes: Yes -4 No -3

Art 22 - $8,144.84 Final Payment for Stryker Power Pro XT Ambulance Stretcher. Motion Elaine Hartford, second Deborah Wilson Votes: Yes – 7 No -0

Art 23 - $60,243 Emergency Dispatching. Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Elaine Hartford. Votes: Yes – 7 No – 0

Art. 24 - $536,134 Lebanon Fire and EMS . Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Joyce Wood. Votes: Yes – 5 No – 2

Art. 25 - $16,500 Protective Clothing Capital Reserve Fund. Motion by Elaine Hartford, second by Chip Harlow. Much discussion including question : “does article 24 include any funding for this?” Answer (in general) “ Art 24 covers equipment and gear not the clothing or sets of clothing.” More discussion followed. David White left the meeting but left his written votes on his copy of the Referendum warrant. After discussion a voted was taken to count or not count votes of anyone who left. A motion was made by Deborah Wilson and seconded by Joyce Wood to vote on this. The vote was : Yes – 6 No – 0 and Abstain – 1. The votes will be counted of those who must leave.

There was then discussion of making this into two articles with an amount that would be needed for immediate Clothing in a referendum article and the rest in a CIP article. Further discussion. Suggestion was made to include both in one article with $6,500 to be spent and $10,000 to be put in a CIP account. (there were votes taken and rescinded on this article. The final vote indicates the Committee’s “straw vote” on this article.) Final Vote was to rescind and vote on a single article with the total to be $16,500 with $6,500 to be spent on sets of clothing and the remaining $10,000 to be placed in a CIP fund. Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Joyce Wood vote: Yes- 6 No – 0

Elaine Hartford left the meeting for a prior commitment.

Art. 26 - $1,500 Communications Capital Reserve Fund. Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Deborah Wilson. Votes: yes – 6 No – 2

Art. 27 - $1,500 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Deborah Wilson. Votes: Yes – 6 No – 2

Art. 28 - $1,500 Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Deborah Wilson. Votes: Yes – 6 No – 2

Art. 29 - $20,613 Martha Sawyer Community Library. Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Deborah Wilson Votes: Yes – 6 No - 0 Abstain – 1

Art. 30 - $10,000 General Assistance. Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Skip Wood Votes: Yes – 6 No -0 Abstain -1

Art. 31 - $12,264 Relief Agencies Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Deborah Wilson Votes: Yes – 7 No – 1

Art. 32 - $24,792 Cemeteries Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Deborah Wilson Votes: Yes – 7 No -0 Abstain – 1

Art. 33 - Interest Rate paid back to taxpayers who pay in excess at 8% Motion by Chip Harlow second by Deborah Wilson Votes: Yes – 5 No – 0 Abstain – 2

Art. 34 - Pre-Payment of Taxes by Tax Collector. Motion by Chis Gilpatrick, second by Deborah Wilson Votes: Yes – 6 No – 0 Abstain – 2d

Art. 35 – Unexpended funds from prior year into unassigned restricted fund-balance. Motion Deborah Wilson, second by Chip Harlow. Votes; Yes – 5 No -1

Art. 36 - Funding at last year’s level for departments listed in article. Much discussion followed about the definition of essential items as this article had stated in prior years and what makes those listed the only departments that will be authorized under the current verbiage of the article. After further discussion a motion was made by Deborah Wilson and seconded by Joyce Wood to vote on the article as written as a “straw” vote and review again with a proposal from the Selectmen to reword after further research. Votes: Yes – 6 No – 0

Art. 37 - State Snowmobile registration amount to the Lebanon Trail Riders Club. Motion by Deborah Wilson, second by Skip Wood. Votes: Yes – 6 No – 0

After discussion the date and time for the next meeting and final votes will be Saturday April 4, 202 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Chairwoman, Jeri Basko adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon after motion, second and approval by all.