

Lebanon Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

11-11-15

Members Present - Jeri Basko, Becky Batchelder, Laura Bragg, Corinna Cole, Chris Gilpatrick, Chip Harlow, Nancy Neubert, Skip Wood

Selectmen Present - Chairperson Thompson

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Harlow at 6:34. Minutes from last week's meeting were discussed. Laura Bragg made a motion to accept and Chris Gilpatrick seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously 8 - 0.

Schedule

Chip will send out an updated schedule by next week.

Miscellaneous

There was a brief discussion about buying items in bulk for the town, such as road salt and paper, from the school district. There were some questions about when bids go out for these items. Selectman Thompson said he thought the paper bids went out in the summer. The town may have missed the deadline for bulk ordering these items.

Chip also asked questions about the Waste Management contract. Ben said they were reviewing the contract. He wants to look at it again.

The EMA (Emergency Management Agency) budget has been absorbed into the Fire/EMS budget - it will not be a separate budget this year.

Chip received an email from Gary Getchell, Planning Board Chair. He had stated last week that the planning board fees charged to residents covered the budget for the Planning Board. In reviewing the figures, Gary said that the fees did not quite cover all the board's budget. Getchell wanted to clear up any incorrect information he provided to the Committee.

There was some discussion about the Highway budget being over budget last year by \$7,000. It was not paid out of contingency but taken out of the fund balance. There were many questions about the handling of this matter, such as was it legal and why it wasn't taken from contingency. There will be more discussion when the committee gets to the highway budget.

There were also some preliminary questions about the Code Enforcement Office.

Dispatch

The town is meeting with Sanford Dispatch next week. They have figured in a 3% increase for next year. Sanford determines the amount each town pays. **Total budget: \$57,038.**

General Assistance

The town has only received 1 reimbursement from the state this year (July). GA pays for electricity, phone, rent, food and heating oil for residents who qualify through the state application. The town cannot turn people away who qualify. The town gets reimbursed by the state for approximately 50% of the money it spends. Budget amount is same as last year.

Total Budget: \$24,425.

Mapping

Same amount as last year. Maps are updated at least once a year.

Total Budget: \$7,000.

Legal Fees

Selectman Thompson stated that overall they are happy with the new law firm Bernstein Shur. The firm has experts in several areas of municipal law. They are now involved with researching the volunteer/paid EMS and Fire personnel who staff the station and also respond from home overnight. This budget is the same amount as last year.

Total Budget: \$35,000.

Contingency Fund

The budget for this item is down \$30,000. from last year (\$80,000.). Selectman Thompson felt that \$50,000. would be enough to cover any emergencies. This fund is used to pay for any emergency over-expenditures in town departments. Last year's expenditures were used for repairs to the EMS station, EMT licensing, planting of a tree at the Old Town Hall, septic repairs that were eventually reimbursed by the state, over-buying of flags for Memorial Day and repeater pole annual fees. Total used from contingency last year was \$14,595.48.

Total Budget: \$50,000.

Next week's schedule -

ACO, Recreation Dept., Summer Camp and Relief Agencies

Chris Gilpatrick motioned to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Skip Wood seconded the motion and it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Neubert

Approved as corrected 11-18-15