

FY 17 Budget Meeting – January 6, 2016 3 pm

Attendance: Steve Jordan; Tom Durawa; Mort Fearey, Jr.; Robbie Coad; Paulo DeOliveira  
Margaret Serpa; Art Smadbeck and Pam Dolby.

Called to order at 3 pm.

Town Accountant: Kim Kane present. Budget remains steady.  
Updated FAC members on status of town finances. All reports are in order.

Town Clerk: Wanda Williams present. Budget remains the same. Some line items moved to different categories for better reporting.

Treasurer: Pam Amaral present. Budget increase in salary line item. Reported on library bond for April 2016. Debt level ratio remains in a good position.

Assessors: JoAnn Resendes present. Budget shows no change. Noted that a change to revaluations is now in the legislature to change from every three years to every five years. Assessments are up 4-5%, valuation is over 7.5 billion.

**One article for ATM:** for \$45,000. for valuation expenses.

Christmas Decorations: Gail Avakian present. Budget increased by 2.5%. Reported positive comments from townspeople on the new lighting on N. Water Street.

Fire/Ambulance: Peter Shemeth, Andy Kelly and David Schaeffer present. Peter presented a handout from earlier meeting with FAC covering changes in volunteer salaries to properly compensate volunteer firemen who consistently train and attend meetings. Some line items have been eliminated now that the chief is full time. Discussion on the upgrading of equipment for the firefighters. Must be updated every 10 years by regulation. Some will be upgraded this year and then a five-year plan to replace as they expire. New communication charges will increase. Medicines are not provided by hospital any longer, must pay our own now.

**Special Town Meeting article:** \$19,192.3 to cover unforeseen repair to fire apparatus.

**Annual Town Meeting articles:** \$55,000. To replace 2006 SUV and to sell same \$16,000. For protective apparatus (8 sets) upgrades.

\$260,000. To purchase new ambulance and sell 2005 Ford ambulance.

Building Inspector: Lenny Jason present. Budget shows slight decrease in inspectors' salaries. All monies collected from inspections are turned back to general fund. Inspectors' receive payment based on the number of inspections they perform. Fees from applicants cover their costs.

Police: Chief David Rossi; Tracy Giacomini, assistant: Budget reflects an increase for a full-time officer and decrease to salaries for traffic officers. Two special officers will cover night shifts and weekend shifts during season. Difference between a special and full time is based on academy training and hours. Overtime costs depend on injuries during the year and coverage needed on shifts. They have upgraded heating/air conditioning units for a lower energy cost.

Articles: 1) \$85,000. To replace the roof. 2) \$85,000. to Purchase two cruisers and dispose of 2 older cruisers.

Harbormaster: Charles Blair present: Reservation system is working well. Attendance for summer 2016 is expected to be up. Reservations begin in February online, same day reservations will be available in the season. The harbor hopes to become a "cash free" zone. This will eliminate cash on hand in the building and less need to keep contacting boaters for payments. A new firm called Dockwa from Rhode Island has a fantastic program.

Highway: Stuart Fuller present: Some line items were shifted for a better reflection on costs. Equipment hire and solid waste combined. The liquid deicing system worked well on slick roads. Street light conversion to LED's has brought costs down. The LED conversion from CLC is now over and any upgrades we do will have to come from the budget. Asphalt bids brought one bid as expected.

Special Town Meeting article: Tree Warden \$10,000. To remove dead trees on Edg. Road  
Annual Town Meeting articles: \$775,000. For road repairs; \$200,000. Sidewalk repairs; \$236,529. (subject to final amount) for C/Ma use of funding; \$20,000. Clean catch basins; \$15,000. Roof fasteners on highway building to stop leaks; \$220,000. to \$260,000. Meeting House Way bike path (costs depend on width).

Selectmen: Margaret Serpa and Art Smadbeck present: Pam Dolby went over the BOS list of budgets. Most showed little or no increase. Veterans Services was raised from \$20,000. to \$30,000. Costs vary up and down based on the number of veterans receiving assistance. Hopefully, this will prevent transfers from reserve fund each year. Employee benefits increased based on expected increase to BC/BS costs. The CC benefit group is looking at ways to keep the increase as low as possible, such as eliminating high cost plans or perhaps changing the 75/25 formula. The cost of living index came out with a negative COLA increase. Some towns will be giving cost of living increase, others not.

Meeting adjourned at 5 pm. We will meet on Thursday, January 7 at 3 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Avakian, assistant