

PHIPPSBURG BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2008

Members of the Budget Committee present at the meeting were: Lisa Gurney, Gary Read, Betsey Morse, Proctor Wells, David Barter, Dan Coffin and David Percy.

The second Budget Committee meeting of the year got underway at 7:04 PM.

The first order of business was the presentation by Gary Morong of the Emergency Management 2009 fiscal year request. Gary usually likes to carry a \$2,000.00 reserve in the Emergency fund, but given the magnitude of the help needed in recent storms, he would like to raise his reserve to \$3,000.00. This seems like the year to do it because the group received a \$1,000.00 Fema disaster reimbursement after last year's Patriot's Day storm. The Fema reimbursement last year, the carry forward, and the \$1,600.00 appropriation from last year's Town Meeting almost gave the group the \$3,000.00 reserve last year. Given their expenditures last year, they are asking for \$600.00 to achieve the \$3,000.00 balance in the fund going into the next fiscal year.

The motion was duly made and seconded that we recommend the \$600.00 Emergency Management request to the Town Meeting for approval. It was voted.

Fire Chief Jim Totman presented the fire requests for the coming year. The General operating budget is \$20,300.00. Chief Totman is asking for \$28,000.00 for the annual General Fund request at Town Meeting. This, when added to his \$62,000 carry over will give him a total of \$90,321.03 available in the 2009 FY Budget. His request may be less at Town Meeting depending on how things go between now and then.

The motion was duly made and seconded that the Budget Committee recommend Chief Totman's request in the amount of \$28,000.00 for the Fire General Account. It was voted.

Chief Totman then presented the Fire Station Operations Budget. The Fire Station is now equipped with Internet services. The Chief saw no real large operations changes in the future and therefore kept the operations budget in line with last year with increases in heat and electricity being the only large items for change. The request is \$11,000.00 for the FY 2009 Town Budget.

The motion was duly made and seconded that the Budget Committee recommend Chief Totman's request in the amount of \$11,000.00 for the Fire Operations Budget. It was voted.

The Chief then presented the Fire Capital Account Request. The Fire Department sold the old tanker truck and had some nice donations last year, which accounts for the income on their spreadsheet. The request in the FY 2009 Budget is \$15,000.00.

The motion was duly made and seconded that the Budget Committee recommend Chief Totman's request in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the Fire Capital Budget. It was voted.

Road Accounts:

Road Commissioner Curtis Doughty and Road Committee Chair Les Smith presented the Road Accounts.

In the General Road Account, they are asking for \$15,000.00 for work trimming trees. Many of the roads around town are beginning to grow in and a major effort must be made to trim the trees back. The total request for the General Road Account is \$55,000.00.

The motion was duly made and seconded that the Budget Committee recommend The Road Committee's request in the amount of \$55,000.00 for the General Road Account. It was voted

The Commissioner is holding his request for the Winter Road Account at \$175,000.00. This year, not surprisingly, there is a \$38,000.00 deficit in the Winter Roads account, which will have to be covered from surplus at the Town Meeting. However, the feeling is that this winter has been severe and perhaps the next one won't be.

The motion was duly made and seconded that the Budget Committee recommend Curtis' request in the amount of \$175,000.00 for the Winter Roads Account. It was voted

Curtis asked for a \$15,000.00 appropriation for the Tar Account. The filling of potholes comes from this account as well as any tarring projects done around town during the summer.

The motion was duly made and seconded that the Budget Committee recommend Curtis' request in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the Tar Account. It was voted

It should be pointed out that the Town received FEMA disaster relief monies after the Patriots Day storm washed out and otherwise damaged several town roads.

The Capital Road Account request was pegged at \$150,000.00. There will be a separate article on the warrant to approve the rebuilding of the dangerous corner after the Parker Head Village. If this article is approved, the Capital request will be lowered to \$75,000.00.

The motion was duly made and seconded that the Budget Committee recommend the Road Committee's request in the amount of \$150,000.00 for the Road Capital Account. It was voted

The Ambulance requests will be considered next week instead of this week.

A letter from Chief Skroski concerning his budget request next week was received and read.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM

Betsey Morse
Secretary