

## **PHIPPSBURG BUDGET COMMITTEE**

### **MEETING NOTES**

February 17, 2010

Chairperson Lisa Gurney called the second meeting of the Phippsburg Budget Committee to order at 6:00 PM.

Members of the Budget Committee present at the meeting were: Lisa Gurney, Ashley Thayer, Shana York, Kim Albertson, Jim Totman, and Paul Gamache. Betsy Varian was absent.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2010 Budget Committee Meeting. A motion was made and seconded to pass the minutes without any changes. The motion passed without opposition.

Road Commissioner Curtis Doughty presented the Roads (General) budget with Road Committee Chairman Les Smith. The Road Committee is asking for \$55,000 representing an increase of \$175.00. Curtis described the tree trimming that has occurred thus far since this is a new expense that was included in FY 2010 and again for this FY 2011. The work to be done this year will focus on Parker Head Road, Meadowbrook Road and Sebasco Road based on complaints, visibility issues and/or allowing more sunlight to hit the road and preserve our roads longer. Jim Totman added that it is important to maintain the roads or we get behind and the repair is more expensive. After discussion, a motion and second were made and the request passed without opposition.

Road Commissioner Doughty went on to explain the Roads (Winter) budget. He has asked for \$175,000 which represents an increase of \$24,000. He stated that because of the uncertainties facing the Town due to weather that may affect the costs in the current fiscal year FY 2010, this causes difficulty for Curtis to manage a budget for FY 2011. He will make an adjustment at the Town meeting. A motion and second was made and the request passed without opposition.

Next, Curtis presented the Roads (Tar) budget. He requested \$15,000 (no change). The Committee discussed the size of the Carry Forward (\$54,942) and asked whether Curtis could apply some of the Carry Forward towards his costs for FY 2011 for striping and tarring the roads. He did not amend his budget. A motion and second was made and the request passed (5-1).

The Special Road Account (State) was presented by Curtis but there was no action required by the Committee since the costs for improvements under this account are provided by the State. No vote was taken.

He presented the Roads (Capital) account next. He has requested \$150,000 which represents an increase of \$75,000. This year, the costs incurred in this account will be primarily for rebuild of 3.5 miles of Small Point Road and .3 miles of Small Point Road. The requested increase incorporates the expenditure of the entire Carry Forward funds. A motion and second were made and the request passed without opposition.

Director Gary Morong presented the Emergency Management budget. He has asked for \$600 which represents no change. He explained that he has kept his costs to a minimum but feels that he needs to keep about \$1,800 to \$2,000 in his account for emergencies. He gets help from the Red Cross, for example, but he feels that it is important for the Town to have its own resources at the ready. With the request, the Carry Forward would remain at \$1,819. With a motion and second, the request was approved unopposed.

Rescue Chief Noreen Alexander and Fire Chief Jim Totman presented the budget for the Ambulance Capital Fund. Both Chief Totman and Shana York abstained from acting on this item. The Ambulance Capital Fund request was for \$28,150 which represented an increase of \$10,850. They each helped explained the cost increases for FY2011. The equipment for the ambulances require certification each year and that certification costs them \$2,000. In addition, the ambulances need either renovation of existing equipment or replacement of existing equipment. The cost for renovating the Med Paks would be much less than the \$25,000 expected cost for replacement per unit. Until they know if they can manage without replacement, they cannot tell what the final request for the budget will be. They expect to receive funds from the Ambulance Association and they

have also put in their first application for funds from the McClanathan Fund to pay for approved expenses. Another new expense this year is a contract with Mutual Aid to cover the need for a paramedic to be available on any calls involving chest pain. Previously the Town relied on three paramedics on staff for the City of Bath but the City can no longer afford to share those paramedics. It was also noted that the Town does not charge anything to those who receive services. With all of this, the goal is to reduce the request as much as possible at Town Meeting after solidifying the other income sources between now and then. After discussion, the motion passed to approve the budget (unopposed).

Chief Totman, continued with his presentation of the various Fire Department Budget requests. Shana York and Chief Totman abstained from acting on the Fire Department requests. With respect to Fire Department (General), he is requesting \$21,950, which represents a decrease of \$6,050. He explained that he expects to need to have some boiler work done but does not know yet the actual cost of that. He also explained that just one fire can cost as much as \$60,000 using the example of the fire at Sebasco Lodge. He said that he would like to keep the Carry Forward around \$100,000 and reduce the request at Town Meeting after he finds out about the funding from the McClanathan Fund. He was asked to consider reducing the request at the Committee Meeting instead of Town Meeting. He did not suggest an amendment to his initial request. After a motion and second, the motion failed with vote of 2-2.

The next order of business was the request from the Fire Department for the Operations Fund. The request was for \$14,450 representing a decrease of \$550. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the budget request. The vote was 4-0 to pass the request.

The Fire Department (Capital Fund) request was in the amount of \$20,000. There was no increase. Chief Totman expects to reduce this amount at Town Meeting based on results of the application to request funds from the McClanathan Fund. The motion was made and seconded that the Budget Committee recommend the Fire Department request. The motion carried with no opposition.

Next the Budget Committee reviewed the requests by various not-for-profit agencies that need support from the Town. The agencies were assigned to the board members *present*.

Chairperson Gurney re-visited the letter received by the Town from Steven Levesque, Executive Director of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRA). The MRRA has asked for support from the Town in its efforts to promote success of MRRA. Mike Young, Town Administrator, noted that when the MRRA was established the Town asked to be included and received no response. The Budget Committee discussed and agreed that the letter contained insufficient information for the Budget Committee to act upon since the letter did not provide any specific information regarding the way in which the Town would be involved and what support was required or needed. Based on that and Mike's input, the Budget Committee moved to forward the letter to the Town Selectmen *without* support of the Budget Committee. It was noted that this matter could be re-addressed if MRRA provides additional details in the future.

Having no further official business, we all sang *HAPPY BIRTHDAY* to Shana York...younger every day!

With the agenda completed, the Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 2/23/10, at 6:00 p.m. The budgets presented will be: Animal Control, Police (General/Capital/Bike Rodeo/Parking Enforcement), Harbor Commission, Cable Access TV, Shellfish, and Cemetery District,

Kim Albertson, Secretary