

PHIPPSBURG BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
FEBRUARY 08, 2010

The Phippsburg Budget Committee gathered today to begin its 2010 review of budget requests for the 2011 FY Town budget.

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

Election of officers was held. Lisa Gurney was unanimously elected as Chairperson. Ashley Thayer was unanimously elected Vice Chairperson and I was unanimously roped in as Secretary. It was duly noted that no one could replace Betsey Morse for all her years as Secretary (or her weekly quotes) but I promised to do my best.

Mike handed out the Public Agency Donations requests for the coming year. The Committee discussed following the same protocol as last year and re-assigning the Committee members the same agencies. The Committee asked that I try to re-establish the assigned Committee members who handled each agency so that we can follow up with them again this year. There was a motion and a second to distribute the information next week based on my findings. The motion carried.

The Committee reviewed the "Policy and Procedures" statement on the second page of our fuschia (yes, that's right – PINK) binder and affirmed that they are the rules the Committee will follow as a guideline during our deliberations.

The official meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

The attendees continued the meeting as an informal workshop. Mike Young went over the contents of our binder outlining the Request sample format for the departments. He explained the sources of information available to us as a Committee to obtain additional details for the department requests. Mike shared historical information regarding past budgets and valuations for our Town, the County, RSU#1 and the State. He also provided an explanation of the LD #1 calculation worksheet and the worksheet used to compute the mill rate. We all asked Mike lots of questions regarding mill rates, valuation, carryover accounts, etc. Mike addressed all of our questions and offered to address any additional questions as they might arise. Thank you Mike!

Mike prepared a memo entitled "Road Account Explanations". This memo was provided to give the Committee a better understanding of some of the items that cannot be easily projected in a budget as it is tied so subjectively to our weather conditions. In addition, the memo provided some information regarding upcoming budget items that will be unique this year – (A) Shellfish (they are not generating the revenue they had hoped and this causes a gap in funding); (B) Administration – (i) new computers needed. Mike plans to make cuts in other admin areas of the budget so that the cost for the computers is set aside over the next three years without causing an increase in the amount requested; and (ii) replacement of container pad. Mike hopes there are some proceeds from the transfer station rebuild that could be utilized for this project. (C) Salary

Accounts – the line item for salary for each of the Library Account and the CATV Account will be transferred to the Salary Account.

Mike asked for our input for preparing the information that has been distributed by email between the libraries and the Town. He kindly offered to consolidate the information into a format that could be reviewed by the Committee and the Town Selectmen ahead of the presentation by the libraries (3/2/10). Thank you Mike!

As a final item, Mike presented us with a letter from the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority. Steven Levesque, Executive Director of MRRA, has requested that the Town consider a “partnership” with MRRA to successfully redevelop the Naval Air Station Base. We are asked to review this request and discuss this further at our next meeting as to the Committee’s position so that Mike can relay our questions/concerns to the Town Selectmen for further consideration.

We are scheduled to meet with the Fire, Roads and Emergency Management Departments next week. Mike passed out a packet containing their requests for our review.

Since this was the informal workshop portion of our meeting there was no official motion to adjourn. We just gradually made our way out the door. This occurred at 8:15 p.m.

Kim Albertson, Secretary