

**TOWN OF TUFTONBORO  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
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**BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Tuesday, May 8, 2018  
6:30 p.m. - Town Offices**

**Present:** Vice-Chairman Gordon Hunt, Bob Theve, John Libby, Helen Hartshorn, Guy Pike, Thomas Young and Karen Koch. Selectmen's Representative Albee arrived to the meeting at approximately 6:40 pm and was not present to vote for motions made at the beginning of the meeting.

**OPEN MEETING:** After declaring a quorum, Vice-Chairman Hunt opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Bob Theve moved to appoint Vice-Chairman Hunt as Chairman, seconded by Helen Hartshorn. Vice-Chairman Hunt asked that the group consider that he is also the Chairman of the Library Trustees and also consider his allegiance to the Library addition project before voting on appointing him as Chairman of the Budget Committee. Guy Pike expressed that he doesn't feel that Mr. Hunt's allegiance to the Library will affect his ability to run the Budget Committee meetings. The rest of the group agreed. Vote Passed 6-0. Thomas Young moved to appoint Helen Hartshorn as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Bob Theve. Vote Passed 6-0. Guy Pike moved to appoint Helen Hartshorn as the CIP representative, seconded by Bob Theve. Vote passed 6-0. Chairman Hunt confirmed for Mrs. Hartshorn that he doesn't feel that it would be a conflict of interest for her to be both the Vice-Chairman and CIP Representative.

**CHAIRMAN COMMENTS:** Chairman Hunt welcomed Thomas Young to the Committee. The only change that Chairman Hunt intends to make is to not ask individuals why they voted the way they did after a vote is taken.

**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of February 13, 2018 were accepted as presented. Vote passed 6-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Chairman Hunt asked the Committee what worked, what didn't and if they had any concerns going forward. The Committee appreciated receiving the budgets earlier last year and hopes that will continue this year.

After reviewing expenditures, Guy Pike shared concern that the budget funds allotted for 2018-2019 Highway Winter Maintenance did not work as the line is already overspent. He referenced the snow removal and ice control policy adopted in 2010 that has not since been revisited and feels that it would be beneficial to revisit the policy. Selectmen's Representative Albee shared that the Selectmen met with Lakes Region Planning Commission on Monday regarding the paving study and hope to have results in the next 90 days.

In terms of the salary portion of the budget, Chairman Hunt encouraged the Selectmen to do inquiries of other municipalities and other larger business in the community to see what their health plans are offering, including employee contributions, etc. Vice-Chairman Hartshorn would like a comparison of what other municipalities are offering for coverage as well as the cost.

Selectmen's Representative Albee confirmed for Guy Pike that the ambulance contract will be reviewed this year. He also shared that the culvert survey was done but no action has been taken to rectify issues that were identified. The group agreed with his feeling that culvert maintenance is important as it relates so closely to paving. He also shared that the Selectmen are aware of the Highway budget concerns and hope to meet with the Road Agent on Friday to discuss this. There was conversation regarding the possibility of developing a Town highway department so the budget can be managed by the Selectmen and the elements involved with doing so.

#### **MEETING DATES:**

A draft 2018-2019 meeting schedule was approved. The next Budget Committee meeting is October 9, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### QUARTERLY REPORTS:

There were concerns for a few expenditure percentages other than the Highway Department. Selectmen's Representative Albee responded to Chairman Hunt's concern regarding the auditors' expended amount stating that expenses are paid at the beginning of the year. Selectmen's Representative Albee will research a few further concerns regarding Workers Compensation, Legal Expenses-Planning Board, and Unemployment Compensation. The high expenditures for Legal-ZBA are due to an ongoing law suit. In response to Chairman Hunt, Karen Koch confirmed that the expenditure reports provided are valid through the run date of April 20, 2018, not just for the first quarter of the year. Chairman Hunt and other members of the Budget Committee agreed it would be helpful to receive quarterly revenue and expense reports even during the months that the Committee is not meeting.

In terms of revenue, Selectmen's Representative Albee shared that Transfer Station revenue will decrease this year due to the poor recyclable commodities market and that the Selectmen should be voting on Friday about auctioning of tax deeded properties. This led to further discussion regarding property auctions. Tom Young shared information regarding property sales done through the Town of Moultonborough that guaranteed clear titles. He feels that sealed bids with clear titles possibly raise more money than an auction held without the promise of a clear title.

##### UPCOMING NHMA TRAINING WORKSHOPS & NEWSLETTER:

Most members of the Budget Committee will be attending a budget workshop taking place on May 10, 2018 at the Ossipee Town Hall.

##### BOS UPDATE:

In response to Helen Hartshorn, Selectmen's Representative Albee shared that the library septic system will be installed in about two weeks. The Sodom Road Bridge will be repaired after school is out for the summer. The boat ramps are done. The Selectmen will be sending a thank you letter to Jeff Moody for donating his labor to complete the Mirror Lake Boat Ramp. A thank you letter will also be drafted for the previous Chairman of the Budget Committee. There are a couple of elections this year so the Election budget is a little higher.

##### CIP REPORT:

No updates at this time.

##### LIBRARY REPORT:

Chairman Hunt shared that the Library is waiting for the septic system. Two Trustees meetings have been held since the elections. The Library building fundraising goal of \$500,000 seems obtainable at this point as many donations keep coming in.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:** At 7:20 pm, Bob Theve moved to adjourn, seconded by Thomas Young. Vote passed 7-0.

Prepared and submitted by: Karen Koch