

TOWN OF TUFTONBORO  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
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BUDGET COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 26, 2016  
6:30 p.m. – Town offices

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairwoman Carla Lootens, Vice-Chairman Steve Brinser, Members Helen Hartshorn, Bob McWhirter, Tyler Phillips, Bob Theve, Selectmen's Representative Carolyn Sundquist, and Karen Koch.

**Also in attendance:** Selectman Lloyd Wood, Police Chief Shagoury, Trustees of the Trust Funds and Cemetery Trustees Chairman Susan Weeks and Deputy Fire Chief Piper.

**OPEN MEETING:** After declaring a quorum, Chairwoman Lootens opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CHAIRWOMAN COMMENTS:** Chairwoman Lootens lead the meeting's discussion to warrant articles. Other agenda items will be reviewed following the warrant article discussion. Lootens also shared her disappointment with behavior within the budget committee members, particularly at the past meeting, and their need to show respect to department heads.

**WARRANT ARTICLES**

**RESCUE/AMBULANCE-CHIEF ADAM THOMPSON:**

As there was a motion at the previous meeting to table the first warrant article listed on the Schedule of Articles Recommended by the Board of Selectmen for the 2016 Town Warrant, "to authorize a five-year lease/purchase agreement for \$425,000 to obtain and equip a replacement multi-response vehicle and a new ambulance and to raise and appropriate \$85,000 for the first year's lease payment", discussion was re-opened.

Selectwoman Sundquist shared that Chief Thompson would like the previous warrant article request to become two separate warrant articles: One warrant article for a replacement rescue truck for up to \$260,000 and a separate warrant article for an ambulance for up to \$165,000.

Budget committee members were able to review, in advance of this meeting, written answers to the additional questions that Chief Thompson received with late notice previously. Subsequent questions were asked and discussion ensued regarding other town's ambulance contracts, original purchase price of the current rescue truck versus the purchase price of a new vehicle, as well as reasons for the replacement request of the rescue truck. In the event that the articles are approved, ideas as to what financial means should be used to purchase the vehicles were also discussed.

**Motion:** Vice-Chairman Brinser made a motion that a vote be held in regards to the rescue truck warrant article, separate from the ambulance, Helen Hartshorn seconded. Vote passed 7-0.

**Second Motion:** Helen Hartshorn moved to approve the warrant article for the expenditure of up to \$260,000 for replacement of Rescue Truck 1, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brinser. Vote passed 7-0.

The ambulance warrant article was now discussed as a separate item. The possibility of purchasing a used ambulance was suggested as an option and past opportunities of doing so was discussed.

Trustees of the Trust Funds and Cemetery Trustees Chairman Susan Weeks also asked some questions of the Fire Chief and ask that the answers be presented at the next meeting.

**Motion:** Helen Hartshorn moved to approve this warrant article for up to \$165,000 for a new ambulance, seconded by Bob Theve. The article was not recommended. Chairwoman Lootens, Bob McWhirter, Vice-Chairman Brinser and Tyler Phillips opposed.

Selectwoman Sundquist re-opened the discussion regarding ideas of possible finance/purchase options, should the items have passing votes. Different options were discussed.

**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairwoman Lootens called for review and approval of the January 19, 2016 minutes. Clarifications were noted.

**Motion:** Vice-Chairman Brinser moved to accept the minutes with clarifications, seconded by Tyler Phillips. Vote passed 7-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Chairwoman Lootens shared Vice-Chairman Brinser's email in regards to a request for the Board of Selectmen to review the process involved to incorporate employee benefit costs within each department's individual budget lines. Discussion ensued in regards to the value of presenting information this way, the need to know how to proceed with doing so, along with the time and costs involved. Chairwoman Lootens discussed the possibility of the budget committee researching further.

**Motion:** Tyler Phillips moved to request that benefit information be put in each department's individual budget lines, Vice-Chairman Brinser seconded. Vote not passed 3-4. Selectwoman Sundquist, Helen Hartshorn, Chairwoman Lootens, and Bob Theve opposed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### BOS AND/OR COUNTY UPDATE, MEMBER/SELECTWOMAN SUNDQUIST:

No new updates.

### ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

Annual Report: The 2015 annual report was discussed. Two pages of the 2016 Department Operating Budget Detail, prepared by Helen Hartshorn, were proposed be included within the annual report. Both pages were to be in color.

**Motion:** Chairwoman Lootens moved to approve including the first two pages of the 2016 Department Operating Budget Detail in the annual report, Bob Theve seconded. Vote passed 7-0.

Police Department Capital Reserve Warrant Article: Bob Theve had asked Chairwoman Lootens for a re-vote for the Police Department Capital Reserve warrant article.

**Motion:** Bob McWhirter moved to accept that a re-vote for the Police Department's Capital Reserve warrant article be granted, Vice-Chairman Brinser seconded. Vote Passed 7-0.

**Second Motion:** Bob Theve moved to approve the warrant article "to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to the previously established Police Facility Capital Reserve Fund", Chairwoman Lootens seconded. Vote passed 4-3. Vice-Chairman Brinser, Bob McWhirter and Tyler Phillips opposed.

Tuftonboro Highway Department Schedule: Tyler Phillips requested that the Board of Selectmen answer a few questions in regards to the Tuftonboro Highway Department Schedule for paving over the next 10 years. He asked that they provide information, after their next meeting, as to what kind of oversight there is for road remediation, as well as what the selection basis is to decide which roads are included on the schedule.

Concerns about the 2016 Operating Budget: Tyler Phillips would like it noted that he again voiced his concerns about the need for frugality in the 2016 Operating Budget. Just as Wolfeboro had done on a unanimous vote to freeze all increases, Phillips feels that Tuftonboro's 2016 Operating Budget needed to be flat to 2015. Phillips also commented, that now, 4 months later, with seriously eroding national economic news, considering an Operating Budget with an 8% increase, a near time record increase, will prevent his approval unless the proposal is reduced to the \$3,242M of last year.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

Meeting Schedule: Next Tuesday, February 2, 2016, at 6:00 pm at the Town House.  
Public hearing to follow meeting at 6:30 pm Tuesday, February 2, 2016, with a snow date of February 3, 2016.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion made by Bob McWhirter, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brinser, vote passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by: Karen Koch