

SELECTMEN'S BUDGET WORKSHOP
Minutes of 01/06/07
8:00 a.m.

Selectmen:

Peter Miller, Chairman
Peter Brothers
Miller Lovett
Frank Michel
Colette Worsman

Town Manager:

Carol Granfield

Director of Administrative Services:

Brenda Vittner

Administrative Assistant:

Wynette DeGroot

Roll Call at 8:00 a.m. Open Workshop by Peter Miller, Chairman

The meeting opened with Peter Miller reminding the Board members of the goals set by the Board of Selectmen. The Goals were distributed to the group.

The Board had further discussion on the COLA amount being proposed (3%) and the means in which it had been derived; lower than the CPI index and lower than the Social Security increase. The Board was polled to determine the potential amount of the COLA and most favored the 3% COLA however a majority felt there should be a Committee established or the Health Insurance Committee should have a revised charge to look at the entire benefit package including merit, longevity, COLA's and all other benefits for the employees. Colette on principle was opposed to the COLA and requested the budget be reduced by this amount and that raises be based entirely on Merit.

This would be for the upcoming as it would not be applicable to this budget.

The Board proceeded to make motions on the 2007 budget:

Debt Service: *Frank Michel motioned to move the bottom line for Debt Service Principal & Interest for the 2007 budget be \$1,214,316. Seconded by Peter Miller. Unanimous vote in favor.*

Regional Associations: *Frank Michel moved the bottom line for Regional Associations in the amount of \$217,062. Colette seconded the motion.*

Discussion: Miller Lovett spoke to the Main Street development and retention studies. Miller stated we need to support the Greater Meredith Program because of the return we get on our investment. (Greater tax dollars because of those businesses coming to town – storefronts occupied.)

Miller amended the motion to increase GMP to \$15,000. Seconded by Peter Miller.

Miller Lovett restated the motion – Miller moved to take the Greater Meredith line out of Regional Associations and move it to Executive Municipal as a sub-category, its own line, Professional Services, in the amount of \$15,000 and this does not affect the other \$5,000 that is designated as the Economic Development line. Peter Miller seconded the motion. Vote Frank

Michel and Colette Worsman against the motion. Miller Lovett, Peter Miller and Peter Brothers in favor. Passes three to two.

Frank Michel moved the bottom line for Regional Associations in the amount of \$204,562. Seconded by Peter Miller. All in favor. Unanimous vote.

Public Safety – Fire – Chief Palm provided the Board with a memo indicating he was able to reduce the Fire budget by \$15,000 under an equipment reduction. *Frank Michel moved the bottom line for the Public Safety – Fire Department budget to \$263,729 seconded by Colette Worsman. The Town Manager concurs with the reduction. Motion passes with all in favor.*

Town Clerk – *Frank Michel moved the bottom line for the Town Clerk’s Office in the amount of \$154,108. Peter Brothers seconded. Unanimous vote in favor.*

Assessing – *Frank Michel moved the bottom line for the Assessing Department in the amount of \$207,110. Colette Worsman seconded. Motion passes all in favor with a unanimous vote.*

Tax Collector – *Frank Michel moved the bottom line for the Tax Collector’s Office in the amount of \$87,584. Miller seconded. All in favor. Passes with a unanimous vote.*

Town Manager’s Office – *Frank Michel moved the bottom line for the Town Manager’s Office in the amount of \$245,148. Colette Worsman seconded for discussion. Colette amended to reduce the amount by \$1,200. No Second. Vote on original motion in the amount of \$245,148 passed with a 4 to 1 vote. Colette Worsman opposes. Miller, Lovett, Michel, and Brothers approved.*

Municipal Administration – *Frank Michel moved the bottom line for Administrative Services in the amount of \$437,988. Peter Miller seconded the motion. All in favor motion passes unanimously.*

General Assistance – *Peter Miller moved the bottom line for General Assistance in the amount of \$65,750. Miller Lovett seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor.*

Public Safety – Police – *Frank Michel moved the bottom line for the Police Department in the amount of \$1,497,850. Colette seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor.*

Community Development – *Frank Michel moved the bottom line for Community Development in the amount of \$372,390. Peter Brothers seconded. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.*

Conservation Commission – *Frank Michel moved the bottom line for Conservation Commission in the amount of \$23,225. Peter Miller seconded. Unanimous in favor vote taken.*

Cemetery – *Frank Michel moved the bottom line for the Cemetery in the amount of \$131,019. Peter Miller seconded. Passes unanimously with all in favor.*

Water Department – *Frank moved the bottom line for the Water Department in the amount of \$616,832. Peter Brothers seconded the motion.*

Discussion on hydrant rental and the user being the Town is why we have to charge ourselves.

Motion passes unanimously

Sewer Budget – *Frank Michel moved the bottom line in the amount of \$716,915. Colette seconded for discussion. Fund Balance figures (\$411,000) were discussed. Peter Miller moved to amend the Sewer bottom line in the amount to be \$691,915 by deleting \$25,000 (because the sewer fund has a hefty balance). Motion passes unanimously with all in favor.*

The bottom line for Sewer and Water is \$1,283,747. Funds for Water in the amount of \$25,000 remain under capital projects however the Sewer amount will be \$0.

Solid Waste – *Peter Miller moved the bottom line for Solid Waste in the amount of \$906,187 with a second by Miller Lovett. The motion passed with 4 in favor and Colette opposes.*

Library – According to the RSA's, the Library (Trustees) have the authority to expend funds as they see appropriate. They do not have to follow the same rules as the Town. Discussion followed on the personnel items such as the Children's Librarian position as well as the positions going from part time to full time. The Board determined the reappointing would be pulled out of this budget.

Miller Lovett motioned to move the bottom line for the Library in the amount of \$481,485. Second by Frank Michel. Miller, Lovett, Michel, and Worsman in favor. Brothers abstained. Vote passed 4-0-1.

Buildings & Grounds – Colette spoke to the old police station item – there needs to be a determination made on the disposition of the building before we can finalize the B&G budget. If the building is to be kept on the Town books, we need to maintain and heat the building (at a cost) or even if the building is put up for sale, the process will take some time and we still have to maintain and heat. She feels we need to put additional funds in this budget to cover costs. Colette also proposed cutting the flower budget. *Colette moved the bottom line for the Buildings & Grounds Department in the amount of \$311,400 seconded by Frank Michel.*

Following discussion by Miller Lovett regarding the flower budget line, *Miller amended the motion to add the \$2,000 back into the budget making it \$313,400. Seconded by Peter Miller. The motion passed 4 in favor and Worsman opposing.*

The Board determined to continue budget discussion immediately following the regular meeting on Monday, January 8.

Highway Budget - The Board reviewed the Highway Budget with concerns voiced on continuing with the road maintenance items and if they are not kept up, the potential of road deficits would be inevitable. They also reviewed the replacement of trucks in the Highway Department.

Miller Lovett motioned to move the bottom line for the Highway in the amount of \$2,426,262. Seconded by Peter Miller. Unanimous vote approving the motion.

Executive Municipal – The new line for this budget including the moving of the Greater Meredith Program line (\$15,000) is \$551,405. (Encumbered 2006 funds for consultant work reduced the proposed line in the amount of \$5,000 and also reduced is the amount proposed for road standards work by \$5,000.)

Frank Michel motioned to approve the bottom line for Executive Municipal Administration in the amount of \$551,405. Miller Lovett seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Ambulance – *Frank Michel moved to accept the bottom line for the Ambulance in the amount of \$247,846. Peter Miller seconded. Unanimously passed.*

Personnel Administration – *Frank moved the bottom line to accept the amount of Personnel Administration in the amount of \$59,481. Peter Brothers seconded. Passed unanimously.*

Parks & Recreation – The Department was able to reduce their budget by approximately \$60,000.

Frank Michel moved the bottom line of Parks & Recreation in the amount of \$763,552. Peter Miller seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

Peter Miller listed items to be addressed (flagged):

- Revisit COLA, Bottom Line, ETF's and Capital Items, the old Police Station, and the Bundled item project.

Peter Brothers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Peter Miller seconded the Motion. All in favor. 5-0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol M. Granfield, Town Manager

Peter N. Miller, Chairman

Wynette DeGroot, Admin. Assistant

Peter F. Brothers

Miller C. Lovett

Frank Michel

Colette Worsman