

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES OF  
OCTOBER 17, 2011**

**Members Present:** Steve Roy, Robert Balon, Bruce Lary, Jay Holmes, Jeff Schall, Terry Oliver, John Losier, and Terry Rhoderick.

**Member Excused:** Robert Demers

**Others Present:** Robin Frost, Denise Vallee, Paul Robitaille, and Don Provencher

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lary at 6:32 pm.

**Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting were reviewed and accepted as written on a motion by Jay Holmes, with a second from Terry Oliver. All were in favor.

**Request for Emergency Expenditure:** Robin Frost explained that HEB Engineering had prepared an estimate for the work that needs to be done to repair damages caused by Tropical Storm Irene for a total of \$510,000. The Town would like to move forward as quickly as possible with the repairs in order to finish the work before winter sets in. The Federal reimbursement will be 75%, with the Town share being either 25% or 12.5% depending upon whether or not the State reimburses 12.5%. The vote tonight would be to authorize the emergency expenditure of \$510,000 with \$382,500 reimbursed by FEMA, \$51,000 from the Emergency Disaster Capital Reserve Fund and \$76,500 from unrestricted fund balance. Robert Balon inquired as to whether we had heard anything from the State and Robin Frost replied that we had not. John Losier asked several questions regarding the estimate and what work would be included and also asked if there was any money available for damages to personal property. Robin Frost responded that, with the exception of the berm at the end of White Birch Lane which will be done to protect the property owners, there is no money available at this time.

Jeff Schall made a motion, and Steve Roy seconded it, to authorize the Emergency Expenditure of \$510,000, with offsetting revenue from FEMA, the Emergency Disaster Capital Reserve Fund and undesignated fund balance. All were in favor, none opposed. The Budget Committee members then signed the letter to DRA Commissioner Clougherty requesting the Emergency Expenditure.

**Committee Vacancy:** Bruce Lary informed the committee that a letter of interest had been submitted by Lisa Kardell. There was minimal discussion and Jay Holmes made a motion to approve the appointment of Lisa Kardell to the Budget Committee. Terry Oliver seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**Clerk Vacancy:** Bruce Lary asked if the Clerk position had been advertised again and was informed that it had not been. Jay Holmes said that he had asked Christina Ross and Gisele Lemieux but that neither had responded. John Losier made a motion to advertise the clerk vacancy again and it was seconded by Terry Oliver. All were in favor.

**Old Business:** Jay Holmes asked if we had heard back from the Attorney General's Office with regard to board members having to recuse themselves due to personal issues. Robin Frost responded that we had not heard back. Bruce Lary wants to avoid the department heads challenging a Budget Committee vote.

Mr. Losier stated that he had gone to the library meeting and that "we" could mean "we the people". Bruce Lary commented that the Budget Committee members should go to the Library and ask questions, but that the Budget Committee will vote as a whole.

**Budget Review Meetings:** It was decided to hold two meetings in December, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> (Recreation) and 14<sup>th</sup> (Fire & EMS) at 6:30 pm. The January meetings will be scheduled in December.

**Public Comment:** Paul Robitaille stated that the Primary Election could possibly be moved up to December 13<sup>th</sup> and that we might have to reschedule the Budget Committee meeting if that happens. Don Provencher would like to see the public get more involved. He stated that he had checked the bulletin board at the US Post Office on two separate occasions and that the meeting was not posted. Denise stated that the copies of the notice were given by her in hand to Dispatch for a Police Officer to post. Don said that someone may have taken the posting down.

Robert Balon commented that he felt there was a conflict of interest with the Budget Clerk stipend being under the Executive Office budget. Robin Frost explained that it is commonly included in that budget or under the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's. There is no conflict. Bruce Lary asked Mr. Balon if he wanted to add more money to the budget to cover the expense of photocopies? Mr. Balon replied that he did not think an increase would be necessary.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was then made by Terry Oliver and seconded by Terry Rhoderick. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm by Mr. Lary.