

Town of Allenstown
Budget Committee
Minutes 12/07/06

Tom Gilligan, Chairman of the Allenstown Budget Committee, opened the December 7th, 2006 meeting at 7:02PM.

Roll Call: Larry Anderson, Sted Holton, Henriette Girard, Roger LaFleur, Peter Viar, Bill Barnett, Richard Lamarche, Dan Howe, Tom Irzyk, Robin McAfee, Tom Gilligan

Also Present: Fire Chief Chaput, and Kelley Collins,

Tom then asked everyone present to join him in a moment of silence in remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day on December 7th, 1941.

They then all stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom then asked that anyone that voted in the affirmative when they discussed the Fire Department's Budget earlier in the year would have to be the one to move to reopen the budget for discussion. Richard Lamarche then moved to reopen the 2007 Fire Department's Budget for discussion and Dan Howe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Chaput then explained that his previous budget of \$323,150.00 he had cut down to \$307,385.00 but the board of selectmen had put some items back in and his new budget before the budget committee was for \$313,385.00

Chief Chaput then went through the cuts that had been applied. The first cut he made was in his own salary. He had brought it down to \$10,000.00 but the board of selectmen had him put it back up to the \$12,000.00 previously approved.

His next cut was in the Stipend-on-call line, he had brought that down \$1,000.00 to \$3,000.00 and the board of selectmen approved that.

He then cut \$100.00 from the Copier line bringing it down to \$300.00.

His next cut was in the Overtime Coverage. Again he brought this down \$1,000.00 to \$17,500.00. The board of selectmen also approved this decrease.

In the Photography Supplies there was an error; the \$996.00 that was listed as what the selectmen had approved did not belong in that line. The bottom line for that was \$1.00.

The Fire Alarm Classes line went up \$995.00 to \$996.00. Chief Chaput explained that they did not know how much longer they would have the services of Don Peloquin who taught their classes and his fee was just his hourly rate. When he is no longer available, fees could be as high as \$150.00 and hour. The board of selectmen approved this amount.

The next change was in the Radio Purchases line. He had brought it down to \$3,780 but the board of selectmen again raised it up to \$7,080.00, as this is a necessary item for the fire department.

The next cut was in the Building Maintenance and Repair line. It was brought down \$500.00 to \$2,175.00, which the selectmen also approved.

The last decrease made was in the Grounds Maintenance line that came down \$2,033.00 to \$400.00. Approved also by the board of selectmen

The chief was then asked if he thought the bottom line would be enough and he thought it would plus Peter Viar explained that the departments with the largest amount of expenses, usually had the most leeway to cut down expenses.

As there was no more discussion Peter Viar moved to accept the new bottom line figure of \$313,680.00 for the fire department's budget. Sted Holton seconded the motion. The motion was brought to a vote and the vote was 8 yeas, and 3 nays. The nays being Roger LaFleur, Henriette Girard, and Robin McAfee. The motion passed.

Tom thanked Chief Chaput for his time and effort.

The next budget to consider was the Civil Defense Budget. Richard Lamarche moved to reopen the Civil Defense Budget and Dan Howe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to reopen this budget.

The only change in this budget was in the Equipment Furnishing line. It had previously been approved for \$1,500.00 and was brought down and revised to \$500.00. This was for new chairs. Chief Chaput did mention that the chairs they had been looking at were on sale thru this Saturday at \$60.00 apiece. He had the approval of one selectmen but needed the approval of another selectmen in order to buy them. Being no further discussion Tom Irzyk moved to accept the new bottom line of \$12,640.00 and Dan Howe seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 7 nays to 4 yeas. Then Tom Irzyk moved to accept the bottom line of \$11,640.00 as the bottom line of the Civil Defense aka Emergency Management budget and Sted Holton seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

The next budget to be considered was the Forest Fire Budget. Roger LaFleur moved to reopen this budget and Tom Irzyk seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Chief Chaput stated that on the Part Time Salary line could be moved to zero. He thought that they could get along with that. That would be making the bottom line figure of \$4,530.00 for this budget. Roger LaFleur then moved to change the part time salary to \$500.00 and Tom Irzyk seconded. Tom asked if they had any bottom line figure with that, and they said \$5,030.00. This new bottom line of \$5,030.00 passed unanimously.

The next budget to reopen was the Building Inspector's Budget. Tom Irzyk moved and Dan Howe seconded to reopen this budget. Budget is opened. Clifford Jones, Building Inspector presented this budget. His original budget had been \$38,557.00 and he brought it down to \$37,757.00 with the board of selectmen's approval. The cuts were made in Membership/Dues, Seminars/Training, Books and Periodicals, and Vehicle Fuel. It was noted that he was also Health Officer, and Animal Control Officer. As Animal Control Officer he put in 16 to 22 hours a week. His work one evening a week at the Police Department was part of his ACO job. With there being no more discussion Tom Irzyk moved to accept the bottom line of \$37,757.00 and Richard Lamarche seconded the motion. It passed 9 yeas, 2 nays. Roger LaFleur and Henriette Girard were the two against this motion.

The next budget was the Health Officer's Budget. Dan Howe moved to reopen this budget and Robin McAfee seconded the motion. It passed unanimously to reopen. Clifford explained that the health Officer's salary had gone from \$2,600 to \$4,000.00, the Deputy Health Officer's Salary has stayed the same at \$2,000.00, Dues and Publications went down one hundred to \$400.00, Vital Statistics stayed at \$1.00, Postage went up to \$40.00 as he is writing a lot more

letters and Equipment went up \$250.00 to \$750.00. This item went up as he is trying to make sure the town is prepared for any epidemic or catastrophe that could befall us. Roger noted that since there was so much money left in this year's budget that some of the items could come from this money instead of raising any of the items. Henriette questioned why the Deputy Health Officer received more than the usual \$500.00 for a deputy officer. Roger made a motion to increase the postage from \$40.00 to \$50.00; there was no second so that the motion died. It was questioned why the Health officer's salary was increased over 50% and Peter Viar answered that question. The Health Officer is really the only one other than the Deputy Health Officer to go out on calls that could be Bird flu, or Asian flu type instances. The numbers of these have been rising drastically in the past couple of years and they are under the microscope as are other towns this size to do things, as the state requires. Henriette asked why the Deputy was being paid more than the \$500.00. Both Peter and Clifford explained that with more calls and this also includes when there are instances like the flood they had earlier this year. They asked who the Deputy was and Clifford explained that it was Sted Holton. Roger asked if they had plans if anything like this were to ever happen again. Clifford said we could certainly plan on things like this happening again. Twice this year we have had flooding and we can be assured it will happen again. Robin asked if the Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer's salary was a stipend or salary. The Health Officer's is a salary and the Deputy's is a stipend. Tom asked why there was so much money left in the salaried amounts of this year's budget with all the trouble they had had. Peter explained that part of that was because Clifford was not hired until after the flood; he started in June. Before the end of the year the Building Inspector's Salary runs out, and then the Health Officer's takes over then. Tom Irzyk could not justify increasing this budget to \$7,191.00 when they have so much left over now. Tom Gilligan questioned why his salary had a 13% increase instead of the 6% increase. Kelley explained that when Clifford was hired in June he was hired at \$16.00 an hour, after ninety days he went to \$17.00 an hour and the 6% increase was based on his \$17.00 an hour salary. Health Officer Duties have become more stringent in the past few years. Clifford has a full time job as Building Inspector and cannot always be there over a Health issue and that is why they have a Deputy Officer. Roger questioned why a health officer cannot walk into an institution and if he sees a health issue place a citation on him. Clifford has a limited roll in what he can do, as restaurants are licensed by the state and taken care of by the state. There now being no more discussion Dan Moved to accept the bottom line of \$7,191.00 and Larry Anderson seconded. There were 5 yeas, 5 nays and one abstention. Motion failed. Tom Irzyk then moved for the Health Officer's

salary to be \$3,911.00, The Deputy \$500.00, Postage \$50.00 and Equipment \$700.00 for a bottom line figure of \$5,602.00. Roger LaFleur seconded it. As there was no more discussion it was brought to a vote and the vote failed by a vote of 6 nays, 4 yeas, and 1 abstention. Larry Anderson then moved for a bottom line vote of \$7,191.00 and Dan Howe seconded. A rather lengthy discussion followed being that a lot of the members of the budget committee wanted things done differently in future years. Kelley explained she had done it this way so that the town's people would know that this is a bigger issue than we have ever had before. Whether or not Sted wants the salary is his business but the \$2,000.00 stipend put in there for him is a very small price for the town to have to pay to have a qualified second health officer available. No one was trying to take Clifford's salary away from him either, they just wanted things itemized cleared then this Department's was. Tom then reminded everyone there was a motion on the floor for the bottom line figure of \$7,191.00, and he brought it to a vote. The vote was 5 yeas, 4 nays, and 2 abstentions. The 4 nays, were Roger LaFleur, Henriette Girard, Robin McAfee, and Tom Gilligan, the 2 abstentions were Sted Holton and Bill Barnett. The motion passed.

Next, Roger LaFleur moved to reopen the Health Agency Budget and Robin McAfee seconded. The motion passed. Then Peter Viar moved to accept the bottom line of \$29,622.00 and Larry Anderson seconded. Roger asked what the Community Action was. Kelley explained that was a program for Merrimack and Belknap County citizens. Meals on Wheels, fuel assistance, wrapping pipes, meals for the elderly, commodity food assistance, electric assistance, core, head start, surplus, volunteers to help elderly and ill. Tom brought the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously at \$29,622.00.

Tom then opened the Welfare Department's Budget. Tom Irzyk moved to accept the bottom line of \$59,950.00 and Peter Viar seconded. Tom Gilligan asked what the miscellaneous line was for, and Kelley explained this that if someone died and had no family, the town was obligated to bury them. Tom then brought the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

The next budget was the Advertising/Regional Planning Commission. Roger LaFleur moved for the bottom line of \$5,284.00 and Tom Irzyk seconded it. The vote was 10 yeas, 1 nay being Peter Viar. The motion passes.

The next budget was the Cemetery budget. Larry Anderson moved to accept the bottom line of \$4,000.00 for the Cemetery Budget and Tom Irzyk seconded it. Dan Howe asked where this Cemetery was and it was explained that it was on

Gilbert Road. Gilbert Road is up off Deerfield Road. Tom Gilligan stated that a few years ago it was decided that the highway department would take care of this cemetery. Tom brought it to a vote and it passed 10 years and one nay being Roger LaFleur. The Cemetery budget passes.

Tom then gave a few minutes break and said they would come back at 8:57PM

Tom reopened at 9:00PM; the next item was the minutes on November 2nd, 2006. Henriette stated that at the end of the first paragraph on page 2 it should read Mr. Gilligan thanked him for his time, not Mt. Gilligan. Henriette also stated that just above that where it states Mr. Cyr then asked the ones that voted against would explain why and the minutes reply no one answered and it should have stated she said it was because of her taxes.

NOTE: I apologize to Tom and Henriette. I guess my spell check was not working, I never meant to say Mt. Gilligan. Henriette, normally you speak so softly that I cannot hear what you say and unless Tom repeats what you say I do not hear it. Please forgive me.

Henriette then moved to amend the minutes and accept them as amended. Roger LaFleur seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Tom then brought up the November 30th 2006 minutes for approval, Roger LaFleur voted to accept the minutes and Sted Holton seconded. Roger then rescinded his motion, as Peter wanted it in the minutes that his absence was excused and that Dennis Carmichael's name be excused also. Peter moved to accept the minutes as amended and Dan Howe seconded. The motion passed with 12 abstaining. Tom Irzyk and Larry Anderson being the ones to abstain.

NOTE: Here again I assumed that Peter was excused and that Dennis should be on the excused list also, but after roll call there was absolutely no reference to any of ones that were absent, either excused or unexcused. Because of that fact I naturally assumed they were unexcused absences.

The next discussion was on the school board. Tom Irzyk stated that they would not be ready to give the Budget Committee there report on the 16th as budget cuts would not be finalized until the 14th and that would not give them enough time to get their presentation ready. It was finally decided that they would meet on Wednesday night December 20th at either AES or ARD at 6:30 PM for the school board's presentation of their budget. He would drop off the papers at the

tow hall when they were ready so everyone could pick them up. Tom Gilligan the stated that the rest of the meetings would be December 13th, December 14th and December 21st at the town hall. December 13th's meeting will be at 6:30PM and the ones on the 14th and 21st would be at 7:00PM.

There being no more new business Tom entertained a motion to recess. Peter Viar moved to recess and Dan Howe seconded. Tom Gilligan recessed the meeting at 9:20PM.

NOTE: These notes are not verbatim. To the best of my knowledge they are the content of those who were speaking.