

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
MARCH 23, 2010

Present: Susan Bransfield, Carl Chudzik, Brian Flood, Sharon Peters and Kathleen Richards

Absent: John Anderson and Mark Finkelstein

The budget workshop was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

Tom Robinson reviewed the Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Grounds Maintenance and Long-Range Capital budgets.

Public Works Director – Overtime line item was added for the Administrative Assistant due to the increased number of projects.

Highway Department – Service Contracts is over budget so far and additional money was added to the proposed budget. Tree Removal/Replacement increased due to the large amount of work that needs to be done.

Vehicle Maintenance – No changes. Repair costs remain consistent.

Town Engineer – Trying to keep the costs down. Some of the engineering costs are being charged to other funds.

Grounds Maintenance - The department is asking that consideration be given to hiring a part-time position for 22 hours per week from March to November to help with miscellaneous tasks. .

Town Building Maintenance – Equipment Repair has decreased. The Building Maintenance Fund is being used to fund some repairs. Heating Fuel is down due to a good deal with the vendor. Custodial Supplies increased slightly.

Snow Removal – Slight increase to overtime line item. Increase in Road Materials—this line item continues to go over budget. Mrs. Bransfield stated that she has received many calls from residents every year questioning why Portland isn't using the treated salt on the roads instead on sand. Rick Kelsey explained that the treated salt is much cleaner, but the additional cost would add approximately \$100,000 to the budget. There would be some savings in street sweeping and vehicle repairs that would offset some of the additional cost. He estimated the net increase at \$80,000.

Sewer Department - Budget increased by 3%. The department will continue to try to cut costs. The main expense increase is the Transfer Out to Capital Nonrecurring.

Water Department - Rates were increased last year. Funds have been transferred from Capital Nonrecurring for the last few years to cover the deficit.

Resource Recovery Fund - Bulky Waste is lower than expected. The town is now using a single-stream recycling program. Electronic Recycling is not currently addressed in the budget. Revenue and expense figures for this will have to be developed. Mr. Kelsey commented that the cost for electronic recycling is not very expensive. Mr. Chudzik questioned the decrease in Sale of Metal and if this reflects the current market. Mr. Kelsey stated that the market for metal fluctuates and it is very high at the present time. Telecommunications reflects the expense of adding an internet connection to the site to run the upgraded software program. Equipment Repair/Rental is for the compactor.

Building Maintenance Fund – Project prices have been very good and a lot has been accomplished.

Parks & Recreation – The Kids Blast Program will be moved to the Youth Services Department for the fiscal year 2010-2011. This is a substantial increase in some playground fees. Trips has decreased substantially and the number of trips has been reduced. Teen Payroll has decreased due to the transfer of the Kids Blast program.

Long Range Capital – The approved projects for 2010-2011 include one fully-equipped cruiser for the Police Department, bus loop improvement at Gildersleeve School, a Ford F-350 pickup for Grounds Maintenance, town-wide computer equipment and the first year funding for revaluation.

The total request from the Long Range Capital Improvement Commission totaled approximately \$700,000. Michael Agogliati reviewed the list of items that were recommended but not approved. With regard to the request for replacement of the Hurst tool spreaders, Mr. Agogliati explained that the equipment was donated to the town in 1985 and replacement parts are no longer available. The rubber track at the High School is splitting in the corners and needs to be sealed. Carl Johnson commented that this is a safety issue and the repair work will have to be kept up with. With regard to the Emergency Management generator, Bob Shea explained that Emergency Management has no equipment and has to rely on the town and the Fire Department. Middletown's Emergency Management Service has provided the lighting for the Portland Fair. With regard to Street Signs, Mr. Agogliati stated that the town will have to comply with a new Federal regulation for signage along town roads and this area will have to be addressed in the next few years. With regard to the replacement of Company #3 windows, this will be taken care of through the Building Maintenance Fund. Mr. Agogliati stated that a large capital item is the repair to the Brownstone Intermediate School roof which is in bad shape. Parks & Recreation will have to address field issues at some point. Parks & Recreation will meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss plans for the fields. Mrs. Bransfield stated that work needs to get started on the Goodrich property because it is not known how much longer the town will have use of the YMCA property.

Mrs. Bransfield commented that the town will have to purchase vehicles and Mr. Robinson has been looking into a capital lease program. Mr. Robinson commented that one option is to develop a plan to lease an amount between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 that would improve some areas, but would be a short-term fix for vehicles.

Motion was made by Kathleen Richards and seconded by Brian Flood to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Darna  
Recording Clerk