

TOWN OF SEABROOK

BUDGET MEETING

JANUARY 18, 2010

Present: Paula Wood  
Peg Weare  
Cora Stockbridge  
Gary Pitts  
Richard Maguire  
Don Hawkins  
Ivan Eaton  
Aboul Khan  
Barry M. Brenner

6:00PM

Mrs. Wood opened the meeting at 6:13PM.

**SCHOOL BUDGET & WARRANT ARTICLES**

Mrs. Wood read the school warrant and articles into the record.

Mrs. Wood asked if the committee wanted to hold the articles until Thursday. The committee agreed to do them this evening.

Article 1 - Proposed Budget

MOTION: Richard Maguire To move the figure of  
Second: Aboul B. Khan \$11,404,033.00.  
Unanimous

Article 2 - Collective Bargaining (SEA)

Mrs. Stockbridge asked for an explanation for the 2010-2011 increase. Nancy Tuttle explained how the increase works. Bruce Cassassa explained the health insurance for this union contract.

Article 3 - Fact Finder's Recommendations (SESPA)

Mrs. Wood asked for the school boards reason why they did not recommend this article. Bruce Cassassa said all the districts voted against it for the main reason of binding arbitration. He said they went to mediation which brought about the fact finding and it was recommended not to approve. There was discussion on the arbitration and it usually being only for grievances. Nancy Tuttle explained the difference between a fact finders report and a union contract. She said the voters would be voting on the complete report and everything that is in the report. The report will be provided at the election.

Article 4 - Long Term Maintenance

Mr. Maguire asked for a list of items that would be looked at. Bruce Cassassa said they are looking at the walkways to be repaired and update some of the bathrooms.

Article 5 - Special Education Expendable Trust Fund

Mr. Hawkins asked for the balance currently. It was stated it is at \$60,577 and all the money has been transferred this way.

Mrs. Wood asked what it could be used for. Diana Pietrowski said the intent would be for unanticipated costs. She said it could only be used for special education including in the school or outside placement.

Article 6 - Expendable Trust Fund for School Building Maintenance

Mrs. Wood asked why they are looking to set up this fund. Nancy Tuttle explained it could be used for many years and doesn't have to be returned back to the Town to offset taxes. They are not looking for any special project. Mrs. Wood asked how they could foresee that they would have an additional \$45K to transfer. Nancy Tuttle said these are unanticipated expenses and they don't know when those expenses would come up. Mrs. Wood said she has an issue with the amount of money being left over within a budget. This article would allow the school board to spend the money in the fund by a public meeting however no vote by Town Meeting is required.

Mrs. Stockbridge questioned why article 4 is not in the operating budget. Nancy Tuttle said it has always been done in a special article and has had different amounts it has not always been \$50K. This article has been on the warrant for at least 4 years.

MOTION: Paula Wood To close the public  
Second: Richard Maguire hearing for the school  
Unanimous at 6:50PM.

MOTION: Richard Maguire Move to recommend  
Second: Don Hawkins article 1.  
Unanimous

MOTION: Richard Maguire Move to recommend  
Second: Paula Wood article 2.  
Unanimous

MOTION: Richard Maguire Move to not recommend  
Second: Gary Pitts article 3.  
Unanimous

MOTION: Richard Maguire Move to not recommend  
Second: Paula Wood article 4.



Mrs. Stockbridge asked what the total represents and what was reduced. Mrs. Wood said the library, recreation, welfare and sewer budgets were reduced.

Eric Small commented that they should have a one form sheet to show the people what they are discussing. Mrs. Wood said it has been done in the past but wasn't received this time.

The committee discussed each budget that was reduced and what the reduction amount was. All other budgets were disclosed as to what was recommended by the Town Manager, Selectmen and Budget Committee. No further discussion on those budgets.

The revenue accounts were also disclosed. No further discussion on those accounts.

Eric Small asked why they are going through each account as they never did this at a public hearing before and all they need to do is disclose the bottomline. Mrs. Wood commented that their job is to discuss and disclose.

MOTION: Paula Wood To take a 15-minute  
Second: Don Hawkins break at 7:55PM.  
Unanimous

Committee reconvened at 8:10PM.

Article 10 - Collective Bargaining (SFA)

Mrs. Stockbridge questioned the permanent firemen and their response to the box alarm and the \$3K stipend if they meet the 60% rule. Mr. Brenner said there is no change in the box alarm agreement. He said the ambulance calls are not included in this agreement but would be added with the new agreement. Chief Brown said when station coverage is required it is counted towards the 60% box alarm rule. He explained the ambulance call back and when they would receive the stipend. He said they would not receive overtime and box alarm pay, the box alarm pay would be in lieu of the overtime. There was general discussion on this and how it is going to work.

Article 11 - Collective Bargaining (SPA)

No discussion.

Article 12 - Collective Bargaining (SSEA)

Mrs. Stockbridge questioned the employee who is not at the maximum pay and if the 2% would be added to their base pay. She asked how they would know when they reach the maximum. Mr. Brenner explained there would still be a maximum pay and over

time with the increases they would reach the maximum pay scale. Mrs. Stockbridge asked what wording was going to be used. Mr. Brenner said it is what they already have. He said they would receive a merit increase each July 1<sup>st</sup> of at least 2% and the Selectmen have the authority to set the increase. The Selectmen would have to budget the increase in their proposed budget to the Budget Committee.

Mr. Brenner explained the employees currently have a step plan and receive increases without it going before the voters. They also have an across the board increase and that is approved by the voters at town meeting.

Mr. Hawkins asked what the percentage increase is in the current step plan and how does it compare to the new plan. Mr. Brenner said it is different for each position and it allows the employee to move up the pay scale based on performance. There was discussion on the steps now in the contract and what the percentage is in each. Some are as little as 8 cents per minute and some as high as 5%. There was discussion that if an employee has an unsatisfactory evaluation and doesn't receive an increase it would free up some money for other employees who do a superb job and if the Selectmen decide to give more money.

#### Article 13 - Human Service Agencies

The question was asked of how many people receive the snow plowing. It was stated there is currently about 8.

#### Article 14 - Library Materials

No discussion.

#### Article 15 - Police Cruisers

No discussion.

#### Article 16 - Office Equipment/Furnishings Police Station

No discussion.

#### Article 17 - Rehabilitating Town Well

Mrs. Wood questioned why this is not coming from the water fund. Mr. Brenner said there is no balance in the water fund to use.

Mrs. Stockbridge asked about the water reserve fund and if it is depleted. Mr. Brenner said it was and this article has not previously been on the ballot. The fund with the trustees is for new water sources only.

#### Article 18 - 2WD Truck for Water Department

Mrs. Stockbridge questioned the sale or trade and if it means just that or they would use it in another department. Mr. Brenner said it means what it says there is no addition to the fleet.

Mrs. Wood why this article and article 27 are different prices. Mr. Brenner said they are two different vehicles and the one for the water department has a utility back.

Article 19 - Master Plan

No discussion.

Article 20 - Improvement to Town Streets

No discussion.

Article 21 - Cracksealing Repairs

No discussion.

Article 22 - Drainage

No discussion.

Article 23 - 1-Ton Truck DPW

The trade/sale of this vehicle would be the current vehicle.

Article 24 - Skid Steer DPW

No discussion.

Article 25 - Access Easement Seabrook Station

Mrs. Stockbridge asked about the \$100K for the access road. Mr. Brenner said part of the settlement was to include the access easements and also a contribution of \$100K to construct the road. It would not be part of the revenues but would be a gift to go before the Selectmen for acceptance.

Mrs. Wood asked where the money would come from if it goes over the \$100K. Mr. Brenner said it would be at a future meeting for approval if it goes over the \$100K. Mrs. Wood commented she is not comfortable with approving something without a cost and that could end up costing the Town more money.

Mr. Hawkins said this would give easier access to Route 1 from Rocks Road.

Mr. Khan commented that a gift was given for Harborside Park and this year the Public Works Manager has spent money and is trying to get grants. If he can't get any grants he will be coming before them for more money in a future warrant article. He said

the Selectmen who worked on this did a tremendous job and it is a win win situation for the Town.

Article 26 - 4WD Truck Sewer Department

No discussion.

Article 27 - 2WD Truck Sewer Department

No discussion.

Article 28 - Gym Floor Recreation Department

No discussion.

Article 29 - Heating/Air Conditioning Recreation Department

No discussion.

Article 30 - Restoration Cemetery Monuments

No discussion.

Albert Abramson questioned the efficiency of the system in article 29 and if it would save money. Ms. Beaudoin said it would be more efficient but doesn't have what the cost savings would be. The purpose is to replace the old system that does not work well.

Article 31 - Ambulance Revolving Fund

Mr. Maguire questioned the balance in the fund. Chief Brown said he doesn't have the figure but the figure to be transferred is the same amount as last year. There are two different funds. One is for the ambulances and the other is the revolving fund. The chief explained the intent of this money and the intent of the revolving fund.

Article 32 - Council on Aging

No discussion.

Article 33 - Conservation Fund

The agents for this fund would be the Conservation Commission.

Article 34 - Community Table

No discussion.

Article 40 - Veterans Park

No discussion.

Article 41 - Repairs in Town Cemeteries

No discussion.

Article 42 - TASC

No discussion.

**BEACH DISTRICT BUDGET**

Mr. Maguire went through the memo he distributed. Mr. Khan questioned the district voters and having it say Town Meeting. Mr. Maguire explained the state statute and that the district owners are the only ones to vote on this budget.

Mr. Maguire also distributed the 2009 budget with the expenditures. He went over some of the highlights of the budget.

Mr. Maguire handed out the proposed 2010 budget and went over some of the key points and commented that the payroll tax line has been added.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To move the figure of  
Second: Gary Pitts \$71,150.00.  
Abstain: Bruce Cassassa  
Present: Richard Maguire  
Motion passed.

Bruce Cassassa questioned the evergreen clause for articles 10, 11 and 12. It was explained that this allows for any raises in the contract to be allowed on the following years if a contract is not passed.

MOTION: Paula Wood To close the hearing at  
Second: Gary Pitts 9:35PM.  
Unanimous

MOTION: Paula Wood To adjourn the meeting  
Second: Gary Pitts at 9:35PM.  
Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 9:35PM.  
Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed:

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Paula Wood, Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_