

# **MINUTES** *approved minutes*

**Budget Committee Meeting:** February 1, 2017

**Present:** Jim Jennison, Judy Aron, Sue Metsack, Conan Cook, Linda Christie, Bruce Bascom

**Public:** Frank Emig, Glenn Elsesser, Ed Babneau, Brenda Melius, Rob DeValk

**Meeting began:** 7:00PM

Minutes: Motion JA/JJ to approve as edited, passed.

It was noted the percentage of taxes collected a/o 12/31/16 came to 92.5 and liens collected came to 91.5 and that New London Hospice withdrew their request as Acworth already partners with Home Health Care.

SM opened discussion on the grader replacement. EB and FE reported in viewing Case machine and research of other used machines. Factory warranties may be limited to models within 5 years and range could be \$225,000-\$240,000. JA and RD reported no support for purchase of new. RD, EB and BB oppose restoration of 1983 grader. SM asked whether there was any support for restoration; none indicated. There was discussion regarding a \$98,000 machine available now. RD will inquire about shipping charge, warranty, service history and trade in. There was consensus no action could be taken until after Town Meeting. GE suggested planning to spend up to \$160,000. CC suggested use of fund balance would be prudent.

Motion JA/LC that draft Article 10 be revised to see whether the voters would support the purchase of a used grader for an amount up to \$160,000 with \$80,000 to come from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, \$20,000 to come from taxation and \$60,000 to come from Fund Balance, passed.

SM asked the Committee to review the budget for other areas of interest or concern. There was discussion as to the potential for forest fire in light of the 2016 Gove fire which incurred over \$20,000 in expenses.

Motion JA/LC to reduce the forest fire budget line to \$5,000 and the forest fire wages line to \$2,500, passed; BB opposed.

In other discussion, JA requested 2016 highway accomplishments and SM noted they appear in the annual report. EB confirmed the small projects line under Highway Maintenance could be designated for paving at the ends of the Allen Road Bridge. JJ indicated he preferred no tax rate increase and FE indicated that may not be realistic.

Motion JJ/JA to meet next on Thursday, February 9 to free February 8 for the School District budget meeting, passed.

Motion JJ/JA to adjourn, passed; 8:35PM. Respectfully submitted, Kathi Bradt

