

MINUTES *approved minutes*

Budget Committee Meeting: January 22, 2020

Present: Judy Aron, Jennifer Bland, Conan Cook, Rob DeValk, Claudia Istel, Sue Metsack, Cheryl Sanctuary

Public: Glenn Elsesser

Meeting began: 7:00PM (SM)

1. Minutes January 16, 2020: Motion RD/J to approve as amended, passed.
2. The State Department of Revenue confirmed the Town can create and fund a capital reserve fund for the purchase of a fire truck by Acworth Volunteer Fire and Rescue as was done in 2003 for the last large truck purchase. RD relayed the Selectmen had discussed and voted to approve amending their budget to include a fire truck CRF and to reduce the operating budget by the amount going into the fund.
3. There was discussion as to the potential impact on Acworth of Charlestown separating from the Fall Mountain School District and consensus voters needed to be warned by all means available of the increase in taxes and the decrease in educational benefits.
4. CI inquired about the Fairpoint settlement. It was noted that Fairpoint's suit against NH towns originated in 2011 over the assessing of poles and conduits, that the Town began setting aside funds then, and that the settlement figure of \$73,000 was covered by funds set aside and the unanticipated State Municipal Aid Distribution of 2019 for \$21,000.
5. CC inquired about the current Fund Balance. It was noted that Fund Balance was about \$450,000 at the tax rate setting last fall. At year end unexpended funds flowed into Fund Balance bringing it to approximately \$540,000. RD noted Selectmen chose not to use any of Fund Balance in the 2020 budget because the budget is down and because the Town could face financial impact from the Charlestown separation, the County Home renovation and the status of the Beryl Mountain bridge in the near future.
6. SM invited voting on the 2020 proposed money articles:
 - a. Article Four funding the operating budget: Motion RD/JA to approve, passed.
 - b. Article Five funding the Revaluation CRF: It was noted the next State scheduled reval is in 2021; Motion CS/CI to approve, passed.
 - c. Article Six funding the Bridge CRF: Motion JA/JB to approve, passed.
 - d. Article Seven funding the Buildings CRF: It was noted this fund intends to cover additional building as needed and existing building repairs; Motion CI/JB to approve, passed.
 - e. Article Eight funding the Equipment CRF: It has been noted no major purchases are planned for 2020; Motion CS/JA to approve, passed.
 - f. Article Nine funding the Landfill CRF: It was noted State monitoring requirements have become more stringent; Motion CI/RD to approve, passed.
 - g. Article Ten establishing and funding a Fire Truck CRF: See discussion under item 1; Motion JB/JA to approve, passed.
7. Calendar: There was consensus not to meet January 29 or February 5 (FMRSD deliberative session date) and to hold the Town proposed budget hearing Wednesday, February 12 with Thursday, February 13 as a snow date.
8. The Committee thanked the Selectmen for proposing such a workable budget.

Meeting adjourned: By consensus 8:25PM. Respectfully submitted, Kathi Bradt.