

TOWN OF SALISBURY

Budget Committee Business Meeting Summary September 13, 2010

Jeff Nangle, Chair	Present	Mary Heath	Present
Joe Landry	Present	Sandy Miller	Present
Gene Shaw	Present	Ralph Downes	Present
Ed Sawyer	Present	Ken Ross-Raymond, Selectman Ex-Officio	Present
Sara (Sally) Jones	Present	Margaret Warren, Admin. Assistant	Present
Bill MacDuffie, Sr.	Present	April Rollins, Recording Secretary	Present

Other Selectmen Present: Karen Sheldon

General Public Present: None

Handouts for Meeting:

- 2010 Budget & Revenue ending on 8/31/10
- 2010 Final - Budget Committee Meeting Schedule

Jeff Nangle opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Review & Approve Minutes of June 28, 2010 – Bill MacDuffie made a **motion** to approve the meeting minutes of June 28, 2010 with amendments. Sandy Miller **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed unanimously**.

Update on Town Issues – Selectman Ross-Raymond

Pingree Bridge Update – Selectman Ross-Raymond informed the Budget Committee the project is running ahead of schedule and the construction is progressing ahead of schedule as well. Selectman Ross-Raymond stated the week of September 20th or the 27th the steel girders are scheduled to be delivered and the BOS recently approved a \$16,000 dollar and a \$14,400 dollar change order for the steel manufacturing inspection and for flagging respectively. Selectman Ross-Raymond noted the project is \$131,807 dollars under the \$1.5 million dollars approved by Warrant Article at Town Meeting. The project's substantial completion date is still December 2010 and the full completion date is May 2010.

Other Budget Items – (4290) Selectman Ross-Raymond stated Forestry is running over but the reimbursements from other Towns should be collected prior to the end of the year and funds may need to be transferred from other departments to cover the overage. Wording for a Warrant Article to start a Capital Reserve Fund for Fire Suppression for future use is being looked into for the 2011 Warrant. AA Warren noted that this is the first year the line has gone over, due to the amount of fires and the State pays a small portion back to the Town.

(4442) Selectman Ross-Raymond informed the BC that welfare is over budget at this point and is averaging \$2500 dollars in vendor payments monthly. The Town has two regular recipients and three to four intermittent recipients. AA Warren stated things like mortgages, propane, utilities and food are provided for by the Town under the adopted State guidelines with a lien placed on the property.

(4199) Selectman Ross-Raymond stated the Town had several 2009 tax abatements filed and five were granted totaling \$3,021.49 dollars but only \$800 dollars was budgeted for.

Town's NEW Net Value – Going in to tax rate setting is \$153,014,900 dollars which is up from 2009 by \$50,843 dollars. AA Warren noted the value is based on new construction only.

Road Agent's Compensation - Selectman Ross-Raymond informed the BC that they have been looking at the Road Agent's compensation i.e. salary vs. stipend.

County Tax – Has increased 25% over last year (\$405,989 dollars).

Review of 2010 Budget & Revenue Figures – Chair Nangle asked if the budget could be received electronically and AA Warren replied it has never been done before but all of the information is available through herself or Jon Herbert. Chair Nangle & AA Warren decided to meet next week to discuss the matter further.

The Budget Committee reviewed the 2010 Budget. Chair Nangle noted that there are extra funds in the Planning/Zoning budget. AA Warren stated the abatement funds would be removed from the Town's overlay (\$5,000 dollars) to offset the overage. Chair Nangle asked about the Police detail line and AA Warren replied there has been a lot of detail work from Unitil and TDS but the line is income. Mary Heath asked if the Police Department's County Attorney fees have increased and AA Warren replied no, it is a once a year payment. Chair Nangle asked what the Fire Department's miscellaneous line was used for and AA Warren replied random items. Repair costs to the Forestry Truck were briefly discussed. Mary Heath asked if the recycling paper hauling was offset by revenue. Ed Sawyer stated not much revenue is made, due to the price of hauling (\$225) but more people have been recycling. Ed Sawyer noted that the new ring road is confusing for people but they have decided to leave it for the time being. Revenue has been consistent over the past year.

General Review of major Department Budgets – AA Warren was asked to provide the Budget Committee with inflation/deflation numbers. Chair Nangle stated he would like to review wages separate then operating versus capital expenses and those other mandatory expenses because there has been a general increase in revenue but where is the money going. AA Warren replied the general surplus is outstanding taxes, not a slush fund and if it were all paid then yes, the funds would be there. Chair Nangle noted that when the tax rate is set, the general surplus figure needs to be understood. Chair Nangle stated he has last year's Audit Report and it should show the figure spent compared to the budget. Chair Nangle made a **motion** to ask Department Heads to come in with a zero base budget, due to lacking available revenue and a slow economy. Gene Shaw **seconded** the motion and the **motion passed unanimously**. AA Warren to draft a letter to Department Heads.

Other Business – None at this time.

Remaining Scheduled Meeting Dates for 2010:

- No meeting in July or August
- September 13, 2010
- October (No Meeting)
- November 8, 2010
- December 13, 2010

Gene Shaw made a motion at 8:06 p.m. to adjourn; Joe Landry seconded. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted: April Rollins, Recording Secretary