

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2016

PRESENT: Becky Doyle, Chairman, David Lage, Tim Johnson; Budget Committee members Judy Spring and Brian Somero; Joanne Meshna

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Conservation Commission 2017 budget review: Bob Boynton, Chairman of the Conservation Commission presented the budget.

Bob explained the Commission had increased line item 691 for water testing from \$100 to \$1,600. During the years 1954-1976 there was a landfill on Page Hill Road that was closed. At that time there were no formal procedures. Several houses have been built in that area. The Commission decided water testing should be done and included \$1,500 in their budget to do so. Bob stated some people may have no idea there was a landfill there. Selectman Lage questioned if that was the Town's responsibility or if the Town should inform owners they purchased property on an old landfill and recommend testing of their water. Selectman Doyle inquired what would happen if there were negative results and Bob responded people would be advised to add water filters. Selectman Doyle added she was not sure what the best approach would be whether the Town tests or notifies the homeowners. Bob added if the homeowners test their water the Town will not see the results and the homeowner may not do the right tests. The tests cost approximately \$800/house. Two houses could be done with the money allotted in the budget.

Selectman Doyle stated she would like to think through the ramifications. Selectmen Johnson stated this could open a huge can of worms. The homeowner is responsible for testing their water. There was no responsibility for the Town when the landfill was closed. Bob stated it is a legal obligation versus a moral obligation and Selectman Johnson responded he questioned where the legal obligation for the Town was as the Town does not own the land any longer. Judy suggested legal advice.

The Board tabled the discussion and continued on with the review of the budget.

Line item 240, training – The line remains the same at \$200. Selectman Lage noted the Commission has not used any money from the line for a couple of years. There is an annual meeting of NH Conservation Commissions and NHMA law lectures each year.

Line item 550, printing – The line remains the same at \$125. The line is for mailing of letters for protection of land. Joanne added the Commission is in the process of putting the new logo on letterhead and envelopes. Selectman Lage questioned if the conservation fund would be used for the letters to landowners and Bob responded the current use fund is strictly for the protection of land. Selectman Johnson stated he had a hard time putting money in the budget just in case.

Bob stated the Commission is going to send a letter out to the homeowners on the Page Hill Road landfill and he would like to know whether he can include that the Town will be doing some water testing.

Line item 560, dues, subs and fees – The line is decreased by \$42. The line is for membership dues for 2017 for NH Association of Conservation Commissions.

Bob added the Commission has donated \$25,000 to the New England Wilderness Trust for the protection of land on Binney Hill Road.

Board of Assessors 2017 budget review: Assessor Frank Danisienka presented the budget.

Line item 312, contract – The line increased from \$11,000 to \$12,000. The contracted assessor's work has increased because of solar. This year the budget will be over by approximately \$1,000. Selectman Lage noted the Board of Assessors had signed the contract for next year and questioned if there were competitive bids from other sources. It was not sent out to bid.

Line item 625, postage – The line decreased from \$1,000 to \$100. Starting in 2017, the Assessors are no longer using inventory forms.

Line item 394, tax maps – The line remains the same at \$2,000. Selectman Lage questioned if a cad program could handle the updates to the maps.

Line item 240, education – The line remains the same at \$200. Frank stated last week he had attended courses offered by NHMA.

The final budget was \$22,183.

Police Department 2017 budget review: Chief Tim Carpenter presented the budget.

Chief Carpenter noted the budget is down by 1.7% from last year. Lt. Cavanaugh retired in June and his replacement has since left. Those top two salaries will be reduced in 2017. They are in the process of hiring an uncertified patrol officer for \$43,000, and he may have a replacement for the Lieutenant's position. Court labor has been reduced; the process for dealing with felony level charges and complaints has changed and it is not known what the impact to the Towns will be. Health insurance is going to change so the figure will change.

The Selectmen have approved a 3% merit increase effective July 1, 2017 which will be a 1.5% increase over six months. This is reflected in the salary lines.

Line item 230, retirement – The line is increased from \$100,142 to \$102,278. The first half of 2017 maintains last year's figures and then increases for two years.

Line item 240, education – The line remains the same at \$5,000. Chief Carpenter noted being short staffed he has not been able to schedule training. In anticipation of having the positions filled, the \$5,000 will be utilized.

Line item 290, uniforms – The line is increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000. This will be for the two new officers. It does not allow for any replacements.

Line item 301, new hire – The line remains the same at \$1,500. This covers polygraphs, advertising and testing.

Line item 431, equipment – The line remains the same at \$2,000.

Line item 432, vehicle maintenance – The line is increased from \$5,000 to \$6,000. The line has not been adjusted since 2007. The actual for 2016 is over because of a \$1,000 deductible for an accident and \$450 for stripping one side of the car. Mascenic High School has cut back on the classes they are doing which makes it difficult to get the cars serviced.

Line item 433, computer – The line remains the same at \$7,000. There are no computer updates planned. An update was done on the operating system in 2016. The line includes expenditures related to the computers and laptops, the SPOTS system terminal and any maintenance, upgrade or repair costs.

Line item 440, rentals/leases – The line remains the same at \$750. This line is for the fax/copier. The copier is on its last legs and Chief Carpenter had a quote to purchase a new copier for \$4,900 through Conway. The maintenance agreement is \$440. The Board agreed to purchasing the copier this year since there is money in the Police budget. The maintenance agreement for the copier is \$440 which needs to be included in the 2017 budget.

Line item 530, communication – The line remains the same at \$5,996. Comcast is \$3,792 yearly, US air cards are \$1,368 yearly and US Cellular is \$836 yearly.

Line item 560, dues, subs, fees – The line remains the same at \$600.

Line item 610, supplies – The line is decreased from \$2,000 to \$1,000.

Line item 611, animal control – The line is reduced from \$500 to \$300.

Line item 622, electricity – The line is reduced from \$3,675 to \$3,500. Chief Carpenter stated what he has read is that Eversource does not anticipate any increases in 2017.

Line item 625, postage – The line remains the same at \$250.

Line item 635, vehicle fuel – The line is decreased from \$12,000 to \$11,300. He anticipates 5,000 gallons annually.

Line item 740, equipment – The line remains the same at \$2,000. Chief Carpenter does not anticipate any new purchases, only replacement for breakdowns.

Selectman Lage asked why the Comcast cost was so much. Chief Carpenter stated they had to upgrade their speed. They had a difficult time trying to download things from the State. They cannot use DSL for State documents because they dictate the firewalls and security.

The Board agreed to Chief Carpenter buying the copier this year since there is money in his budget. The maintenance agreement for the copier is \$440 which needs to be in the 2017 budget.

The budget was not finalized as the new health care costs are needed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Meshna, Town Administrator

Board of Selectmen November 21, 2016 minutes approved by:

Rebecca M. Doyle, Chairman

David S. Lage

Timothy Johnson II