DUBLIN BUDGET COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2016

Present: Charlie Champagne, Chair, Steve Baldwin, Nancy Campbell,
         Paul Delphia (Selectman’s Representative), Judith Knapp, and Bill Gurney
Absent: Dale Gabel
Also Present: Sherry Miller - Town Administrator

Charlie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Loring Catlin presented the budget on behalf of the Cemetery Committee. He noted that 70% of the budget is comprised of labor costs. Fuel and supplies have been reduced by $200. The Committee is considering two warrant articles for improvements to the cemetery including repairs to the Hearse House to address foundation issues, siding and paint ($5,000) and the building of a new storage building to store and maintain equipment ($20,000). The new building would be 16’x20’ and would be similar in design to the Hearse House. A brief discussion was held regarding the merits of replacing the Hearse House roof during the renovation.

Steve moved and Nancy seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 25th Budget Committee meeting. The motion was passed 5-1 with one abstention (Bill).

Charlie asked Paul whether the Selectmen had discussed the elimination of the line item for animal control as discussed at an earlier meeting. Currently, funds in this line item are distributed at the discretion of the Police Chief. Following a brief discussion, Charlie asked Paul to convey the Budget Committee’s suggestion that the line item be dropped.

Paul informed the Committee that Selectmen have sought a bid for painting the Town Hall ($24,000). He noted there are sections where the paint has failed. Paul noted that moisture within the building is causing the paint to peel and probably not an issue with the quality of the paint. Judy noted that the Budget Committee would encourage Selectmen to seek more than one bid before preparing a warrant article.

A brief discussion was held regarding a possible warrant article to study the feasibility of providing Wi-Fi in Town. A question was raised about the wisdom of moving forward with the study given the cost of building the infrastructure.

The Selectmen are preparing salaries for Town employees based upon a cost of living increase of 1.5%. The 1.5% COLA would be for all employees with three employees also receiving salary increases based upon performance. The employees receiving increases based on performance will not receive the COLA increase. Judy noted the COLA increase exceeds current estimates. Sherry stated that retirement costs are anticipated to increase on July 1.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Bill Gurney