Present: Budget Committee Members - Steve Baldwin, Nancy Campbell, (Selectman’s Representative), Charlie Champagne, Paul Delphia, Bill Gurney, Judy Knapp

Absent:  Dale Gabel

Also Present: Sherry Miller, Town Administrator, see also list at the end of the minutes

Hearing called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Charlie Champagne. Chair Champagne read the public notice as printed in the Monadnock Ledger Transcript.

Chair Champagne introduced the Budget Committee members and stated that he would review the budget department by department noting when there was a difference between the budget submitted by the Board of Selectmen and that of the Budget Committee.

Chair Champagne reviewed the Expense budget:

- Executive - $116,858
- Elections - $3,350
- Financial Administration - $82,781
- Revaluation - $22,825
- Legal - $35,500
- Personnel Administration - $242,744 (BOS - $245,244)
  - Recruiting: $0.00 (BOS - $2,500)
- Planning & Zoning: $19,343
- General Government Buildings - $26,957
- Cemeteries - $21,136
- Insurance - $29,450
- Advertising & Regional - $3,348
- Other General Government - $36,327
- Police - $334,649
- Fire - $209,378
- Building Inspection - $20,024
- Emergency Management - $8,529
- Highway - $470,090
- Street Lighting - $9,000
- Solid Waste Disposal - $143,155 (BOS - $143,655)
  - Swap Shop: $0.00 (BOS - $500)
- Health Administration - $8.00
- Animal Control - $100 (BOS - $2,039)
  - Salaries: $0.00 (BOS - $1,883)
Social Security:  $0.00  (BOS - $29.00)
Medicare:  $27.00  (BOS - $27.00)
Welfare Administration - $19,664
Parks & Recreation - $2,552
Summer Playground - $21,044
Library - $82,931
Patriotic Purposes - $1,200
Conservation Commission - $5,429

Total Operating Budget:  $1,968,371 as it will appear in Article 3 of the 2017 Warrant Article.

Chair Champagne reviewed the Revenue Budget

Total revenue budget as adjusted: $792,470.

Chair Champagne reviewed the Warrant Articles that had appropriations and required that the Budget Committee either Recommend or Not Recommend:

**Warrant Article #4:** Purchase of a One-Ton Truck - $60,316.  Recommended

**Warrant Article #5:** Purchase a Cyclone Blower - $7,600.  Recommended

**Warrant Article #6:** Paint the Exterior of the Town Hall - $24,750. Steve Baldwin spoke to this article. The Budget Committee was concerned as to why the current paint job only lasted 8 years.  Not Recommended

**Warrant Article #7:** Construct a maintenance building at the cemetery - $26,000. Bill Gurney spoke to this article. This is the second version of this article. Originally it was to be a pre-built building for maintenance of equipment with an estimate of $16,000. The price has escalated from $16,000 to $26,000 for a stick built building. Loring Catlin explained that the building would not be stick built but would be pre-fab.  Not Recommended

**Warrant Article #8:** Maintenance and repairs of the hearse house at the cemetery - $5,000. Bill Gurney spoke to this article. Further there is a question as to whether we need 2 buildings and think that the Cemetery Trustees should explore the possibility of building one building that would meet all of the needs of the cemetery crew.  Not Recommended

**Warrant Article #9:** Broadband Study - $12,500. Charlie Champagne spoke on this article. The Budget Committee has not seen a RFP and thus we do not know what the deliverables would be. Other concerns are that the ultimate cost to install broadband would be over $1 million and who would be responsible for maintaining the installation in the future. Walter Snitko responded to these points for the BOS stating that the BOS would have provided the RFP to the Budget Committee if
they had been asked to do so. He also stated that Chesterfield was currently in the process of installing broadband in the town. While they did get a donor to fund the project, they knew the cost as a result of the study. Not Recommended

**Warrant Article #10:** Capital Reserve - $318,000. Recommended

- Heavy Highway Equipment $ 63,000
- Police Cruiser $ 15,000
- Fire Equipment $ 80,000
- Road Construction $ 65,000
- Bridge Repair/Replacement $ 55,000
- Town Building Maintenance $ 35,000
- Library Major Maintenance & Repair $ 5,000

**Warrant Article #11:** Dublin Advocate - $4,000. Recommended

**Warrant Article #12:** Health & Welfare Agencies - $7,331.

- Big Brothers Big Sisters $ 500
- CASA $ 500
- Southwestern Community Services $ 645
- Community Kitchen $ 1,000
- Monadnock Family Services $ 1,996
- Contoocook Valley Transportation $ 500
- Home Healthcare Hospice & Community Svcs. $ 1,690
- The River Center $ 500

Judy Knapp spoke to this article. As in the past, the Budget Committee feels that these should not be funded by taxation but rather by private donations. Not Recommended

**Warrant Article #13:** Expendable Trust Funds - $7,900. Recommended

**Warrant Article #14:** Sale of Cemetery Lots - $825. Recommended

**Warrant Article #16:** Dublin Community Center - $9,000

Judy Knapp spoke to this article. As in the past, the Budget Committee feels that this should not be funded by taxation but rather by private donations. Not Recommended

The difference in the Revenue Budget between Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen is due to warrant articles that were not recommended by the Budget Committee and their impact on Transfer from Capital Reserve. Neil asked why there was a big difference between the 2016 revenue and this year's number. Nancy responded that it was due to the fact that last year the funding for the Charcoal Bridge was included ($334,806) and that if there were any other changes they could be made in October 2017.
Pre-Town Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 28 at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn (Gurney), seconded (Champagne) and passed. Budget Hearing adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Knapp, Co-Secretary

Also attending:

Brooks Johnson
Tom Vanderbilt
Jeremy Jeffers
Loring Catlin
Caleb Niemela
Margaret Gurney
Tom Kennedy
Neil Sandford
Nic Handy (Monadnock Ledger-Transcript)
Walter Snitko
Sturdy Thomas