DUBLIN BUDGET COMMITTEE
Meeting minutes
December 5, 2017

Present: Steve Baldwin, Nancy Campbell, Charlie Champagne (Chairman), Bill Gurney
Walter Snitko (Selectmen's Representative) and Susie Vogel

Absent: Judy Knapp

Also Present: Sherry Miller-Town Administrator, Jeannine Dunne and Neil Sandford

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Champagne.

Minutes from the November 28, 2017 meeting were moved, seconded and approved as written.

Walter reported that the Selectmen met with Community Center representatives on Monday night. It is likely the Board will support their request because of previous town votes. The Selectmen will also be meeting Monday with Tom Green (Provident Insurance) to discuss the Fire Company concerns re the Primax insurance and whether or not it is the same coverage as Provident’s. The Fire Company is not convinced that a firefighter would be covered under Provident if there was some medical issue hours after a fire emergency. Walter also reported that the Capital Improvements Committee has not finalized anything, they have had no meeting and Dale felt that any changes to the Capital Reserve figures would be minimal or just a re-allocation of the funds already in the proposed warrant article.

Sherry reported that TraceyMay was trying to get the bill from spraying from Miriam (the bills do not come to the Town office). The contract for buying the beetles in 2018 should be coming soon so the funds in the 2017 budget can be encumbered.

Sherry also reported that numbers for the telephone system should be coming December 12th or 13th.

Nancy asked if there would be a warrant article for $500,000 for road construction. This is still in discussion; the timing is in question. It might be prudent to take loan in 2018 because interest rates are still between 2.5% and 3.25%. Construction would not take place until 2019. There is one more payment to be made on the existing loan in 2018.

The chloride spreader for dirt roads that had been proposed was bought with the additional money from the State. Any money for supplies should come from the highway department supplies line. Brian will be asked on Monday if it is included in supplies for 2018.

Warrant article review:
1. Dublin Community Center- Susie was concerned with the Advocate article re the Community Center administering the Recreation Committee (it is not administrated by the Center) and the cost of the Center’s proposed addition. Should the Community Center request be included in with the other charitable requests since they do a petition article every year? Bill handed out Jaffrey’s process for charitable requests, which asks for a copy of the organizations 990, their audit, a list of the board and directors and a
description of services provided including the direct benefit to the town and other funding sources. Charlie reported that Peterborough does not give to any charity if they get a property tax break.

Concerns about the Community Center’s request include that it is more money than 2017 and they are proposing an addition when they don’t have the funds to support what they currently have. The sense of the meeting was that this article will not be recommended.

2.) Health Agencies- Bill was concerned about how the charities are vetted and how many Dublin people were served? Should we be giving tax money even though the organizations do good work for the town? All of the agencies requesting funds have been approved by the Selectmen. If it was a new organization, the Selectmen would have to meet with them to determine what services they are providing. Perhaps the Budget Committee should just recommend the agencies.

3.) Dublin Advocate: No concerns.

4.) Baler at the Transfer Station: Concerns about the long payback period, do we need a baler for every type of material and is this the way to go since single stream recycling seems to be the way to go?

5.) Fire Station Roof: No concerns.

6.) Police Cruiser: Do other towns have a 7 year replacement cycle, what happens if a 7 year old car doesn’t make it that long, how often would 3 cruisers be used, how many other towns our size have 3 vehicles and would capital reserve and maintenance lines have to increase?

Expense budget review:

1.) Executive clerical- Concerns about the additional 2 hours, making the position full-time after only a year. What has changed in the Town, are there demands from the state that the Committee doesn’t know about and is there a new job description? Can this position handle the secretarial work for the Planning and Zoning Boards?

2.) Town Clerk/Tax Collector salary- The Selectmen have already determined that a petition article for any increase above the 2.2% COLA for both the TC/TC and Deputy would have to be done.

3.) Legal -Is this too low?

4.) Prosecutor- In response to a question about hours or a flat rate, the answer was a flat rate. Steve would like to see it be hours (not a Budget Committee role).

5.) Town Hall Maintenance- Is this too low in light of the 5-year average?

6.) Cemetery- No questions about budget. Question about the new building be painted; it will be left to weathered.

7.) Property and Liability Insurance -Includes about $400 for an additional cruiser.

8.) Part-time Police Officers- Concern about too many part-time people. Officers make $20.00/hour, plus certification once a year and uniforms; they are full-time in other departments. The budget wasn’t all spent because shifts couldn’t be filled.

9.) Full-time Police Officers- Budget was not used; new hire in August.

10.) Details- Is there a detail contract with other towns and who is liable if there is an incident in the contracting town?


12.) Fire Training- Depends on who shows up. There is one more quarter for payroll.

13.) Ambulance- Still looking for a viable option.

14.) Highway department- Unknown if sand is all in.

15.) Summer Playground- Director’s salary did not get reviewed; the budget is less for 2018 than the actual salary for 2017. Elliot sets the staff stipends within the allotted budget based
on who is returning. There were 61 children; 14 were from other towns. Non-residents pay $175 and residents $150.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12 at 7 pm. The agenda includes meeting with Chief Suokko to discuss the cruiser purchase and other budgetary items and to begin voting on warrant articles and departmental budgets. Charlie explained how the voting process would work. Budgets are still subject to change. Revenue figures are still to come; it is unknown when.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Campbell, Co- Secretary