DUBLIN BUDGET COMMITTEE
Meeting minutes
November 27, 2018

Present: Steve Baldwin, Nancy Campbell, Charlie Champagne (Chairman), Bill Gurney, Judy Knapp, Sturdy Thomas (Selectmen's Representative) and Susie Vogel

Also Present: Sherry Miller-Town Administrator, Susan Stover and Phil Cayford-Dublin Community Center, John Morris-Conservation Commission, Geoff Pinney, Beth Pinney

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Champagne.

Minutes from the November 13, 2018 meeting were moved by Bill and seconded Sturdy by and approved as written.

John Morris presented the Conservation Commission budget:

Total budget is down $1,200 from last year - $4,064 from $5,284:
1. Invasives: Mainly knotweed control. They did spray this year but are spraying less than before because the need has decreased and also because some members are opposed to the overuse of spraying.
2. Lake monitoring: Reduced by $250 to $350 - only monitoring once per year.
3. Maintenance Conservation: Reduced $320 from $920 to $600. This is mainly mowing and is not done as much as in the past.
4. Fees for Mud Pond Dam have been moved to Dues & Subscriptions.
5. Dues - Mud Pond Dam, $400 - $500. We have to pay the state NH Dam Bureau a dam fee. Dues are to the NH Conservation Commission and NH Lakes (we get the money back under the Lake Host program).

Charlie asked if members walked any of the town lands. John said that they monitor the easements each year (Mud Pond and 2 Conservation easements for the Forest Society) not all town land.

Judy presented the Election budget.

Sturdy asked who did the checklist updating. Nancy Campbell does the data input and reports for the Supervisors.

Susan Stover presented on behalf of the Dublin Community Center.

They are asking for $8,000, $2,000 less than last year. It is for 44% of the Program Coordinator's salary.

BOS asked The Community Center Board if they could provide the number of Dublin residents served. Susan reported they don't ask for residence when people sign in but they do have the attendance figures. The Board assumes that 66% are Dublin residents (3,506). More people are attending than last year. Volker's programs have helped attract more people to the Dublin Community Center. Rentals are mostly to residents or town organizations.
Bought Little Green Light database. It currently contains 769 records, including 472 full-time Dublin residents, as well as all donors. They hope that since they will be able to personalize donation requests in the future it will result in higher donations.

Community forums: mostly Dublin residents both as attendees and presenters.

Susan highlighted the prospective programs for 2019.

Susan presented a Five-Year Financial Plan for the Center: This was in response to the BOS asking if they had a long-range financial plan

They are on track for donations from individuals and are working on having businesses sponsor events.
Art Income from commissions on sales - budgeted $1,000 this year and have already exceeded that amount.
Reduced amount in town warrant but feel the town should continue to contribute to the organization as we are a destination for many in town.
Rents have been increased to $800 and $1,000 not including heat or electricity.
Mortgage payments will increase after loan repayment completed.
Events: largest is Small Treasures Art Show. This also generates the most income.

Steve asked about a capital campaign for the addition. They currently have raised $70,000 but have received additional pledged funds.

The Center received approximately $15,000 in 2017/18 in grants (e.g., Monadnock Coding Club)

Susie asked that since initially the Center did not plan to come to the town for any funding, is that still the intention or not. For example, could the mortgage payments be lowered to enable them not to come to the town for support. Susan said that the Center board felt that it was important that the town continue to financially support the Center since it has become a destination for people in town.

It was asked if the Sunday School is a rental or an event.? Susan said that the Church pays an hourly stipend to cover electricity and heat. The Center is not affiliated with the Dublin Community Church.

Charlie asked about the recreation activities. There is no relationship with the town. It is not part of the town recreation committee.

The reason that the warrant article is pegged to the program coordinator's salary is that he is driving so much of the Center's program and the Center could not function without that position.

Sturdy and Sherry presented the town **Salaries and Wages**.

Sturdy stated that the Northeast CPI is 2.3% and the Social Security COLA is 2.8%. Sturdy explained that they averaged the two figures to arrive at the town COLA of 2.4%. This is an across the board increase. Nobody was excluded, no one got a merit increase and no one’s hours were increased. Sherry updated the salary, Social Security, Medicare and Retirement lines to reflect the 2.4% COLA.
The salary study, currently being done, will not impact these salary and wage figures. There could be salary adjustments based on the study in the 2020 budget, but not in 2019 budget.

The new Highway department employee will begin at $17.00 and increase to $17.50 after probation, receipt of CDL license and a good review.

If the road money is approved at the special town meeting there will be no use of the fund balance and funds should be able to be encumbered for highway work from this year's budget.

Telephone charge is still not clear since adjustment should be done monthly not annually.

We still don't have an audit figure, figures for web site maintenance, fire training or mutual aid dispatch. Highway department figures will have to be updated. We have an ambulance figure. Retirement will go down July of 2019.

Warrant articles are not finalized. Fire payroll and rescue payroll will stay the same since Tom felt that there is enough room in the budget even with the COLA increase.

Not sure when we will know what our school tax rate will be, i.e., percent increase. Sherry will contact Conval re Dublin's rate. County might be 30% increase.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 4th for discussion of Warrant articles and review the budget. Charlie will not be at the meeting, so either Judy or Bill will be the Chair.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Knapp, Co- Secretary