Dublin Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2018

Present: Steve Baldwin, Nancy Campbell, Charlie Champagne (Chair), Bill Gurney, Judy Knapp, Sturdy Thomas (Selectman’s Representative) and Susie Vogel

Also present: Sherry Miller (Town Administrator), Allan Pinney and Beth Pinney

Meeting called to order by Chair Champagne at 7:00 pm.

Minutes from December 11, 2018 were moved, seconded and approved as written.

Review of revenue budget with the following questions:

Land Use Tax-revenue when a piece of property no longer qualifies for current use; half goes to the Conservation Commission fund.

Rooms and Meals Tax should be about $81,000.

Flood Control-revenue from federally owned land (MacDowell Reservoir) and paid for by MA & CT.

Police Grants $4,000- no Highway Safety Grants in 2019 because Dublin doesn’t have enough accidents.

Traffic Calming –is finished although there is still one more invoice which will be reimbursed.

Most revenue lines remain the same as 2018.

Review of expense budget with the following questions or changes:

1. Town Office Expenses- add $4,336 to Computer Expense for BMSI license fee-total for this budget line now $28,816.
2. Town Office Expenses- decrease Website maintenance to $1.00.
3. GGB-Church Clock- No change, no additional information.
4. Nancy asked if all budgets included the COLA. There was not enough of a difference to change Election salaries and the Playground Director did not want the COLA. Sherry to check to make sure the COLA is in the Animal Control salary for police officers.
5. Part-time help in Highway, Library custodian, custodian for shoveling and Fire Department Secretary will get the COLA even though the lines in the budget did not change. Part-time police get $20.00/hour. The welfare salary is an additional position and will get the COLA.
6. Peterborough Ambulance- The BOS has a letter saying the 2019 budget is fixed.
7. Fire Department-Truck Repairs-still repairs and maintenance to be done, so line should be spent in 2018.
8. Highway Department sand, gravel and salt-buying sand now for the end of the year. Sand bid went to Francestown Sand and Gravel for $13.75/cu.yd. Gravel will be supplied by Dublin Sand and Gravel & C&S at $17.75/cu.yd. Only minimal salt has been bought in 2018.
9. Library staff wages and salary reflect increased hours and COLA, although we don’t know how many hours each person is working. Sherry will find this out.
10. In response to how the Library is funding the extra hours in 2018, Sherry reported that the Library Chair said the Library minutes could be wrong and the budget would not be overspent.
Review of draft warrant articles:

Charlie felt the fewer articles this year, the better. He has heard from people who are concerned with the 2018 tax increase. He feels we should only fund what is absolutely necessary to do in 2019. Judy expressed concern that we always keep the operating budget as low as possible and then we spend on warrant articles. Bill Gurney feels 3 articles from the police department is excessive and Steve suggested we not replace the carpets. Steve also felt we should repair the current Highway department loader, particularly in light of the fact that a 6-wheel dump truck is due to be replaced in 5 years at a projected cost of $256,000.

1. **Police Cruiser** - No discussion.
2. **Paint exterior of Police Station** - Perhaps this could be put off for a year.
3. **Replace carpet in Police Station** - Perhaps this could be put off for a year.
4. **Town Hall Roof Replacement- TBD**- One estimate of $85,000 (BOS felt this was too expensive). Getting other estimates, including one from the company that did the roof 34 years ago.
5. **Loader for Highway Department** – Still waiting for an estimate to repair the road control, the AC and other problems.
6. **Highway Garage addition - $80,000**-Discussion on timing of this project and whether or not an overall study of the building should be done in order to add more space to house all the vehicles, equipment and the breakroom. Charlie suggested spending $10,000 on a study and plan for this building. Sturdy will take this idea to the BOS.
7. **Fire Department self-contained breathing apparatus - $84,710**-No problem with request-a safety issue.
8. **Heating System for Post Office building-$11,900** to replace the heating and AC systems with $11,900 coming from the Town Buildings Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund.
9. **Replace Library Carpet** – Perhaps this could be put off for a year.
10. **Paint Library Function Room** - Perhaps this could be put off for a year.
11. **Lawn Mowing Tractor for Cemetery Use - $3,500**. No problems with request.
12. **Capital Reserve Funds contribution – $350,000**-Discussion on the need to fully fund this. Could some funds not be funded this year since the BudCom is proposing to remove some of the warrant articles?
13. **Dublin Advocate - $4,000**. No problems with request.
14. **Dublin Community Center - $8,000**-BudCom’s position is to have the Community Center submit a petition article.
15. **Health and Welfare Agencies-TBA**-There will be no request from The Community Kitchen because Dublin people are not using the facility and there is no request yet from Community Volunteer Transportation. End 68 Hrs. of Hunger has submitted a request for $500 and the BOS supports this.
16. **Expendable Trust Funds contributions-$7,400** with $6,000 for Revaluation and $1,000 for Master Plan.

The next meeting will be January 8, 2019 at 7 pm. The agenda includes voting on department budgets. Sherry reported we will have final budget figures at the 1/22/2019 meeting. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Campbell, Co-Secretary