Dublin Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2018

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

Also present: Sherry Miller, Town Administrator, Roger Trempe, Road Agent, Hank Campbell (arrived at 7:50)

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

Minutes from the July 17, 2018 meeting were moved, seconded and approved as written.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed schedule as sent out, special considerations for the 2019 budget year and warrant articles.

Sturdy reported that the Board of Selectmen had met before the Budget Committee meeting and voted to ask the Superior Court for a Special Town Meeting. A special meeting is necessary because there is only 23% left in the total operating budget, and of that amount the Highway budget only has 4.8% left, and the Town doesn’t have the recommended fund balance (Town only has $296,000) in reserve. Hopefully this will happen before the end of October in order for the Highway Department to have adequate funding for the winter season as well as enabling the Town to get tax bills out in a timely fashion. If there is no special meeting, the Highway Dept. would do nothing before winter. There is a real risk of additional damage to the roads and/or highway equipment if nothing was done. At the suggestion of the Department of Revenue, materials could be bought and billed in January.

Roger presented a plan for fixing the washed out roads to make them passable and plowable before the winter. To date the Town has spent $69,240 to make the roads passable. The estimate to repair the damaged roads (paved and gravel) is another $107,499 for a total of $176,739. Roads to repair are the following: Cobb Meadow, Monument, Old Harrisville, Meryman, East Lake, Old Marlborough (paved and gravel sections), Upper Jaffrey, Old Troy, Burpee and Windmill Hill. The gravel section of Old Marlborough Road will only get 6” of gravel instead of the 12” that got washed away.

Roger also reported that a new highway employee had been hired and is expected to start soon.

As part of the discussion on the request by the Selectmen, there was discussion on whether or not the Selectmen were asking for enough money. The BudCom suggested $225,000 to make sure there was enough money to finish the repairs and have adequate funding for the start of the winter season. Motion made by Bill Gurney, seconded by Nancy Campbell to support the
Selectmen’s effort for a Special Town Meeting for $225,000 to fix storm damage. Motion passed 7-0.

Budget schedule as sent out was okay.

Review and discussion of warrant articles to date:
- Loader, 350 pickup truck and breakroom for Highway Dept.
- Fix walkway and steps and new furnace for Post Office building
- Carpet replacement and painting of function room at Library
- Lawn tractor for Cemetery use
- Self-contained breathing apparatus for Fire Dept.
- Cruiser, replace flooring and exterior painting for Police Dept.
- Town Hall roof should re-shingled within the next 5 years. The Selectmen would like this to be a non-lapsing article.
- Dublin Community Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters, CASA

The building projects would be funded from the Capital Reserve Building Maintenance account. Sturdy reported, that based on the latest Capital Improvements Plan, that there will be enough money in the account in 2019 to fund all the projects with approximately $30,000 left in the account.

Sherry will forward the Capital Improvements Plan to the BudCom.

The next meeting is September 25th at 7:00 pm. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Campbell, Co-Secretary