

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FY'17 PROPOSED BUDGET

Brent and the Board discussed the proposed budget for the Highway Department. Proposed changes include increasing funds for road reconstruction and resurfacing projects, seed and mulch (using hydro seeder more), gravel for mud season (based on historical costs), new chloride tank, property and Workers' Comp insurance. The budget also includes funds to repave Old Stage Road. The total proposed budget is approximately 5% more than the FY'16 budget. This comparison excludes the cost for the Seymour Road Bridge budgeted in FY'16.

Several adjustments were made to the proposed budget by the Board and Brent, which will change the bottom line. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Per the Capital Budget, Brent will be replacing the single axle dump truck. He estimates the purchase price to be \$110,000 for a used truck and \$175,000 for a new truck.

CUSI (Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations) FY'17 BUDGET REQUEST

CUSI submitted a request of \$3,132, which is a significant decrease from the current year. The Board would like to confirm the requested amount is correct.

FUTURE OF TOWN AUDITOR POSITIONS

The Board discussed asking the voters to vote whether or not to eliminate the Town auditor positions. The discussion was prompted by having difficulty finding people, particularly qualified people, to fill these positions (there is still a vacancy from Town Meeting). If the Town chooses to eliminate these positions, an outside CPA firm would have to audit the Town financial records. The outside audit will add an expense to the budget however the cost would be offset by the funds currently budgeted for the Town auditors. The existing Auditors were asked their thoughts. Both felt an outside audit would be beneficial. One of them thought the residents would appreciate retaining the Town auditors, the other felt retaining the Town auditors is not necessary if an outside audit is conducted. The Board will research if State Statute requires an annual audit if the positions are eliminated. The consensus amongst those present was an annual audit will be required however this will be confirmed.

METAL DUMPSTER – COST UPDATE

Due to a decrease in metal prices, All Metals Recycling is assessing the Town a charge for switching out and transportation of the dumpster. The cost being assessed is \$100 per switch/transport. It is estimated that the dumpster is switched/transported 12-15 times per year. The current budget has funds available in the Trash/Recycling line item to cover invoices received during FY'16. The Board will need to budget funds for FY'17 based on the estimated number of times the dumpster will be switched and transported.

SCHEDULING OF FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS

IT Contract – Dave reported that the Town is in a 5 year contract that expires at the end of 2017. Nanette received a price from a local IT company that provides services to the towns of Milton and Hinesburg. The price is significantly less than what Vermont Connections is assessing. Dave will contact Vermont Connections to see if the price being assessed can be adjusted.

Fire Arms Discharge Ordinance – Casey is doing research on alternatives to adopting an Ordinance. This item will be discussed at the end of January or beginning of February.

Spiller Property – The Board will revisit this topic at the end of January. They are awaiting more information on the Jackson Farm project/appraisal before deciding how to move forward.

RED – School Property

The School Board attended a Planning Commission meeting to discuss the property owned by the School District. The School District owns 4 parcels, one of which is jointly owned by the Town. KHHA (King's Hill Homeowner's Association) has the right of first refusal for the jointly owned parcel. The School District is looking into whether or not to Quit Claim their interest to the Town. Any transfer/sale will need to be approved by the voters.

The property on Brookside Road is comprised of three parcels: a 14 acre parcel (A), a 12 acre parcel (B) and a 50 acre parcel (C). The School is obtaining a legal opinion with regard to if the School District has to actually own the property the school building is located on (A). It is likely that parcel C will be transferred to the Town prior to July 1, 2017 (this parcel is located along the river and has trails on it). It is unclear what the school will do with parcel B. The School Board is interested in investigating drafting a perpetual land use agreement (e.g. trail use, building use, sport field use, etc.) between the town and school. Any agreement in place prior to July 1, 2017 will be honored by the new school district (RED). The Town and School have expressed interest in sharing an attorney to draft an agreement. The Town's attorney will be contacted to see if this is something their firm can facilitate. Dave volunteered to be the liaison between the Selectboard and School Board.

SHERIFF CONTRACT

The Sheriff's Office would like to clarify their contract with the Town. They are under the impression that they would patrol all year, similar to the State Police however had to remain within the budgeted amount. The addendum to the current contract states that the patrol period is July-Oct and the May-June. If the Board wants them to patrol more, a revised addendum needs to be furnished to the Sheriff's Office.

The Board decided to amend the addendum to include year round coverage with the exception of March and April, which is mud season, unless otherwise requested by the Town.

ROAD SCHEDULE

Casey Mathieu made a motion to approve the Road Schedule for November 24, 2015 through December 10, 2015, seconded by Dave Adams. Motion passed: 3-0.

The Board would like Brent to submit a UPWP (Unified Planning Work Program) proposal to the CCRPC for assistance in conducting a culvert inventory to be uploaded to the VTrans database and to train Brent on the using the database.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL WARRANTS

The Board approved the accounts payable and payroll warrants.

CORRESPONDENCE

Alex advised that the contract with O'Leary & Burke has been signed. O'Leary & Burke will move forward with evaluating the library parking lot and make recommendations to address the concerns that have been raised with regard to the grading that's been done.

An email dated 11/13/15 received by Becky Roy was read. Mrs. Roy's email was in response to a response sent by Alex to her 11/6/15 email. Mrs. Roy clarified that she feels there should be warning signs and no one directing traffic when the Road Crew is using equipment to fix pot holes, etc., especially in the vicinity of curves/hills. She would like the Board to address this.

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The appraisal for the Jackson property has come in. The coordinating committee is working with the Vermont Land Trust and Gauthiers about what the numbers look like and will attend the Dec. 22nd meeting to present a proposal and discuss what, if anything, to bring to the voters in March. Casey advised that the owner of the Perry parcel (formerly a gravel pit) located off Post Road is interested in selling and will entertain offers.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexander Weinhagen, Chair
Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Administrator

