

Budget Committee Meeting
4/21/2016

Call to Order: 6:32pm

Present: Terry Brackett; Chair, Doris Vertz; Vice Chair, Christine Savage, Joel Moore, Joseph Patricia, John Mountainland and Lynn Athearn.

Also Present: Jay Feyler; Town Manager, Laura Curtis, Secretary, James Justice and Greg Grotton (Selectmen) Jesse Thompson (Ambulance), Kevin Soule (Fire) and Lawrence.

Absent: Ann Donaldson and Eric Amundsen

Article 31 – Ambulance - \$219,700

Jesse Thompson spoke of the increases in per diem payroll due to having a driver at the station during the day now. Calls have picked up.

There were 451 calls for Union the past year and 223 calls for Sterling – Union will have to cover the Sterling calls since they will no longer be doing it. When Hope is not in service we will only lose about 40 calls.

Motion: Christine Savage to accept the Ambulance at \$219,700

2nd: John Mountainland

Vote: Unanimous

Article 27 L. Fire - \$61,540

Kevin Soule said there is no increase for this year, there was an increase last year for Equipment and that should cover any extra. The turn out gear is being replaced slowly. They are currently obtaining specifications for a new Fire Truck for next year which will come out of the reserve account. Also, they might ask for the carryover to go into the reserve account.

Article 27 H Hydrant Rental - \$14,000

Same as last year

Article 14 - \$59,486 – Dispatch

This is actually an assessment and there is nothing that can be done it has to be paid.

Motion: Christine Savage to accept Article 14 in the amount of \$59,486.00

2nd: Lynn Athearn

Vote: 4 opposed – 3 in favor

Article 27 – K Planning Dept/Codes \$49,305.

The reason for the increase is the Comprehensive Plan. The wages line is for full time but the CEO works 3 days a week and if need be he will work the other days by appointments.

Article 34 – Animal Control - \$25,513

Same as last year.

Motion: Christine Savage to accept Animal Control at \$25,513.

2nd: John Mountainland

Vote: Unanimous

Article 27 – M – Street Lights

Jay stated that there were discussions going on now to change this to the Town owning the Street Lights.

Article 27 – G – Town Maintenance

This is for the mowing. This will go up because of going into a new contract negotiation.

Article 27 – P – Birdhouses

There is no change here.

Article 36 – General Assistance - \$10,000

Motion: Christine Savage to accept Article 36 at \$10,000

2nd John Mountainland

Vote: Unanimous

Article 12 – Union Assistance Fund - \$5,000

Jay Feyler stated this account is different from General Assistance as it does not have the specifications that General Assistance has. This fund acts for a person that doesn't qualify for General Assistance but needs a little help with fuel etc. Usually it is a one time thing and he has never had anyone return.

Motion: Christine Savage to approve Article 12 - \$5,000

2nd: John Mountainland

Vote: Unanimous

Article 35 – Parks and Recreation - \$10,000

Motion: Christine Savage to accept Article 35; in the amount of \$10,000

2nd: John Mountainland

Vote: Unanimous

Article 32 – Reserves - \$136,000

Motion: Christine Savage to approve Article 32 - \$136,000

2nd: John Mountainland

Vote: Unanimous

Article 27 – R

Town Retirement Match \$17,000

Article 27 – N Common Maintenance \$5,000

Band Stand, monument – this covers everything in the common except mowing.

Article 27 – U -TAN Interest

This has not been used in a long time.

Motion: John Mountainland to accept Article 27 in the amount of \$720,211

2nd: Lynn Athearn

Vote: 6 in favor – 1 opposed

Article 8:

To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen, with a 4/5th vote, to transfer up to 10% of unexpended balances between accounts as needed, or act thereon.

Motion: Christine Savage to approve Article 8 as written

2nd: John Mountainland

Vote: Unanimous

Article 15:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to APPROPRIATE FROM FUND BALANCE an amount not to exceed \$6,000 to be used to cover Tax Abatements for the fiscal year of 2016-2017.

Motion: Christine Savage to approve Article 15 as written

2nd: John Mountainland

Vote: Unanimous

Article 18:

To set interest rate at 7%. Lynn Athearn asked if it had been at 7% for a long time and the Town Manager said yes it has.

Motion: Christine Savage to set interest rate at 7%

2nd: John Mountainland

Vote: Unanimous

Article 19:

To set interest rate for abatements at 3%.

Motion: Christine Savage to set interest for abatements at 3%

2nd: Lynn Athearn

Vote: Unanimous

Article 28:

To see if the Town will vote to RAISE AND APPROPRIATE \$5,000 for the salary of the Treasurer for the fiscal year 2016-2017, or act thereon.

Motion: Christine Savage to approve Article 28

2nd: John Mountainland

Vote: Unanimous

Article 40:

To see if the Town will vote to take the following amounts from income and interest earned on the respective scholarship accounts, to fund a scholarship (s) to be awarded in the year 2016-2017, or act thereon.

Robert H & Eleanor S Heald Fund	\$28,700
William L Pullen Fund	\$18,400
Gilbert Doughty Memorial Fund	\$ 250
Frank D & Gertrude N. Rowe Fund	\$ 135
Raymond Thurston & Belle Thurston Kinniston Fund	<u>\$ 143</u>
Total:	\$47,628

Motion: John Mountainland to approve Article 40 as written
2nd: Christine Savage
Vote: Unanimous

Article 41:

To see if the Town will vote to APPROPRIATE from the William Pullen Trust the following sums or act thereon:

Scholarships	\$18,400
Vose Library	\$ 2,300
Union Elementary	\$ 7,040
Town of Union	\$20,000

Motion: Christine Savage to approve Article 41 as written
2nd: John Mountainland
Vote: Unanimous

Article 42:

To see if the Town will vote to APPROPRIATE from Fund Balance up to \$100,000 to reduce the tax commitment for 2016-2017 or act thereon:

Motion: Christine Savage to approve Article 42 as written
2nd: John Mountainland
Vote: Unanimous

Article 43:

To see if the Town will vote to APPROPRIATE THE FOLLOWING. General Fund revenue sources to be used toward the 2016-2017 budget appropriations of the Town of Union thereby decreasing the amount required to be raised by property taxes, or act thereon.

State Revenue Sharing:	\$ 89,000
Other Revenue fees and interest	<u>\$ 53,000</u>
Total:	\$142,000

Motion: Christine Savage to approve Article 43 as written
2nd: John Mountainland
Vote: Unanimous

Doris Vertz wanted it put in the minutes for the June Meeting to re-vote on a motion to meeting with the Selectmen and Budget Committee during the 2018 budget preparation.

There will be 6 Budget Committee openings in June. The town Meeting is the 20th. The next meeting will be called by the Chair after the Town Meeting.

Motin: Christine Savage to adjourn

2nd: John Mountainland

Vote: Unanimous

Adjourned: 7:55pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Laura J Curtis

Secretary