

**MINUTES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**JANUARY 9, 2008**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Barbara Wilson. William Neault, Beverly Lund, Bob Barns in attendance with Nick Thomo arriving later. Guest included Selectmen Rudy Heller; Assessor Phil Peirce; Animal Control Officer, Eileen Vitello; Assistant Animal Control Officer, Gabby Pecore; BEMA Director, Keith Karmann and Highway Superintendent, Herb Chaffee.

**EMAIL RESPONSE GARY SIMEONE**

Ms. Lund advised the members that she had received a response from Gary Simeone regarding his need to come before the Board. He requested an explanation as to why he should attend the meeting because his budget was level funded and he had put in for a 3% increase in wages even though the Committee had requested that this not be done. He felt it was a waste of his time. He felt any questions could be answered by email.

Ms. Lund responded stating that she would advise the other members of the Committee and any questions could be forwarded to him for a response.

**BUDGET REVIEWS**

**Assessors**

Mr. Peirce was present to represent the Assessors. It was noted that a copy of the budget had not been submitted to the committee prior to the meeting.

The budget reflects an increase of \$175.00 with the largest increase going to the production of maps. Other line items have been reduced to accommodate this minimal increase. The Assessors have also requested a 3% increase in wages/stipends.

Mr. Peirce advised the committee that the new growth figure will probably drop and estimated it to be around \$75,000. This figure is used to calculate revenues for the upcoming year. He also advised that there will be a large drop/decrease in local receipts and has estimated this to be around \$100,000 over last year. He will provide the committee with actual figures as soon as possible.

Ms. Lund question the Overlay Account and was advised that the Assessors have obtained an opinion from Town Counsel as to whether or not these funds can be transfer to Overlay Surplus and be appropriated by town meeting vote. Mr. Peirce will provide the committee with a copy of the legal opinion from town counsel.

Mr. Peirce further indicated that they will have no articles for the warrant.

## **ADJUSTMENTS SELECTMEN'S BUDGET**

Ms. Lund advised Mr. Heller that two of their accounts had been level funded but the amounts listed as being appropriated for this fiscal year were incorrect. The amount for Computer Repairs was \$2,500 and not the \$4,000 as submitted as well as the consultant account was \$2,000 and not the \$2500 that was submitted. Mr. Heller will look into this and advise the committee accordingly.

Mr. Heller advised the committee that the cost to convert the photo copy to a duplex printer would be \$2,000 and further investigation is required before a decision can be made regarding this matter.

## **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

Mrs. Vitello was present but the committee had not received a budget from her. She indicated that she was looking for a raise for the assistant animal control officer and stated that both of them are on call 24 hours a day. She further advised that the cost of the Wickaboag Vet. Clinic has also increased. The committee will look at the budget when it is provided and if there are any questions, Mrs. Vitello will be contacted.

## **BEMA**

Mr. Karmann was present to explain his budget even though it was level funded from last year. He indicated that there are a number of courses required by FEMA that are out of state and that his is currently outfitting the trailer and is storing his equipment and supplies in the former highway superintendent's office.

## **SNOW AND ICE**

Mr. Chaffee requested permission to over expend the Snow and Ice budget on an as needed basis up to an additional \$50,000.00. This request has been approved by the Selectmen. A copy of the expenditures to date was provided by Mr. Chaffee.

He advised that Board that a number of windshields need to be replaced in the trucks and this is being covered by the Town's insurance. However, the windshield in the loader is not covered and needs to be replaced. Approximately 100 yards of salt and sand have been made available for use by the residents.

Mr. Neault moved; Mr. Thomo seconded to approve the request to overspend the budget as requested by the Superintendent; so voted.

## **APPROVAL MINUTES JANUARY 3, 2008**

This item was postponed to allow time for the members to read the minutes.

## **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

Mrs. Vitello returned to the meeting with a copy of her budget and asked that the committee considered increasing the stipends of both individuals. The committee requested that copies of the number of dogs that were picked up for the prior year, how many wild life animals were picked up, how many calls were received and copies of the cell phone bills be provided to the committee.

Due to the fact that the Selectmen are the hiring authority and deal with physicals for newly hired individuals, the line item for physical was reduced to \$200.00.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Neault moved; Mr. Thomo seconded to adjourn the meeting; so voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A. Lund, Secretary

Date approved by Committee: January 16, 2008

Date submitted to Selectmen: January 17, 2008