

MINUTES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 30, 2008

There being a lack of a quorum present, the meeting was opened by Chairman Wilson for the purpose of a discussion and workshop. Bob Barnes, David Holdcraft and Beverly Lund in attendance. Selectmen, James Allen was present with Selectmen Rudy Heller coming in at the end of the workshop.

MINUTES – JANUARY 16 AND 23, 2008

The minutes were put on hold until a quorum could be present to approve them.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TRANSFER REQUEST

Those present had a number of questions regarding the transfer request for \$8,545.00 for the replacement of the motor in the Dresser loader. Questions including was it a rebuilt engine, if so, was it the one that was in the loader, what is the year of the loader and also requested a copy of the bill/invoice. The secretary was instructed to contact Mr. Chaffee for the answer to these questions prior to the next meeting.

RECREATION COMMISSION BUDGET

Due to the fact that this budget is level funded for Fiscal Year 2009, they will not be asked to come in for a budget review but the secretary was instructed to contact the chairman to request that a form be filled out.

EMERGENCY SQUAD & FIRE DEPARTMENT

Notification read advising the committee that the above departments cannot come to the scheduled meeting on the 12th and they have been asked to attend the meeting on the 19th of February.

FEBRUARY 12 MEETING

It was noted that the meeting scheduled for Tuesday the 12th has been changed to Wednesday the 13th and new notices will be sent to the Cemetery Commissioner and the Water Department.

PETITION – NEW APPOINTMENT JOHN DAVID HOLDCRAFT

A petition was forwarded to the Advisory Committee by the Selectmen. The petition carries about 35 names and is objecting to the appointment of Mr. Holdcraft to a position on the Advisory Committee.

Mr. Allen stated that he felt the petition is not asking for anything of the committee and in his opinion anyone who expresses an interest to serve on a volunteer committee should be appointed as a member.

It was the consensus of those present that no action be taken on this petition as a quorum was lacking.

ACCOUNT NAME CHANGES

The Selectmen are requesting and the Accountant has approved changing the following line item names from Municipal Heating to Municipal Heating and Maintenance and from Telephone Contract/Leases to Municipal Telephone & Internet. This information will be passed along to Mr. Neault.

ARTICLES ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

A number of articles have been received for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and they will be reviewed at a later date. These articles are as follows:

Fire Department – Further funding for the fleet account, \$5,000 for station maintenance for brickwork and \$2,500 for painting of the station;

Emergency Squad - \$30,200 for ambulance expenses and \$111,000 for wages;

Highway Department – To accept and expend Chapter 90 funds (no amount provided) and \$30,000 to the Highway Construction, Reconstruction and Improvement of Town Roads, Bridges and Sidewalks.

Advisory Committee – It was mentioned that the Advisory Committee had previously submitted an article to the Selectmen for inclusion on the warrant. This article dealt with any article of \$25,000 or more can only be placed on an annual town meeting warrant. It was also mentioned that James Cooke is also looking for an article concerning secret ballot votes being required for articles of \$25,000 or more.

LEVEL FUNDED BUDGETS

It was noted that a number of additional budgets are either level funded or reduced from Fiscal 2008 and it is not necessary for those in charge to attend budget review meetings. These included the Council on Aging, Veterans' Services, Historical, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector, Gas and Plumbing Inspector and Wire Inspector. It was noted that a number of these budgets included COLA increases which to date have not been recommended by the Advisory Committee.

BOARD OF HEALTH BUDGET

The members present requested that the secretary send the Board of Health Budget back to the members for resubmission on the new forms. Each budget should have a different form.

MEMO SELECTMEN PHYSICAL EXAMS

Memo read advising that they have instructed all town department that they need to budget for physical exams and that they may need to modify their preliminary budgets. A new form was received for Physical Exams for the Selectmen's budgets.

RESIGNATION WILLIAM NEAULT

Letter of resignation from Mr. Neault read. No action taken due to a lack of a quorum. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

SCHOOL BUDGET FIGURES

Mrs. Wilson advised those present that the Tantasqua budget is up approximately 4.1%. They will be hiring one English teacher, ½ aide for special education and ½ position for the technical program. Their County Retirement is up 32%. The budget includes a 2.5% increase in wages and salaries. Mrs. Wilson will contact Mr. Neault regarding the Elementary School Bond figures.

ANNUAL REPORT

The members were reminded that they need to get their thoughts and suggestions to the secretary for the annual report which is due to the Selectmen by February 14. Mrs. Wilson will write something about the school and Mr. Barnes suggested that something be put in regarding the need for new members.

CONCLUSION

Mrs. Wilson closed the discussion/workshop at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A. Lund, Secretary

Reviewed and accepted by Advisory Committee: February 13, 2008

Submitted to the Selectmen: February 14, 2008