

**MINUTES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
APRIL 23, 2008**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Barbara Wilson with Greg Burnham, Bob Barnes, and Dave Holdcraft in attendance. Selectman Ronald Dackson was present.

**APPROVAL MINUTES APRIL 16, 2008**

Mr. Burnham moved; Mr. Barnes seconded to approve the minutes of April 16, 2008; so voted.

**BUDGET CUTS**

Mr. Burnham presented the members with copies of his calculations made as a result of last week's meeting. These cuts to a number of those departments that the committee felt could be cut were done using 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5% reductions. The bottom line savings results for these additional cuts are \$3,340, \$6,680, \$10,019, \$13,359 and \$16,699 based on the percentage previously mentioned. At this point no action was taken by the Committee to accept the additional reductions.

The possibility of reducing the Selectmen's Physical Examination and Computer Maintenance budgets by \$400 and \$500 respectively was discussed. Mr. Dackson was asked to bring this issue to the other members of the Board to see if they would approve. If so, the cuts will be made.

**SNOW AND ICE ACCOUNT**

It was noted from the Expenditure Ledger Variance Sheet provided by the Town Accountant that there is currently a deficit in the Snow and Ice totaling \$84,207.68 with the total expenditures being \$134,207.68. \$50,000 was originally approved at the annual town meeting for Fiscal Year 2008 and the Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectmen had authorized the over spending of an additional \$100,000.

The figure used for the levy limit calculation is \$50,000 with the additional \$50,000 coming from the 148 Engineering Account. Due to the fact that there is an excess of \$15,792.32 Mr. Burnham moved; Mr. Barnes seconded to contact the Highway Superintendent to ascertain whether or not there are any additional bills coming out of the account and if there are none, that the levy limit figures be changed to reflect the actual expenditures of \$84,207.68; so voted.; so voted.

There was considerable discussion regarding the Snow and Ice Budget and this account will be further looked into for next year.

**HIGHWAY OPERATOR POSITION UPGRADE**

Ms. Lund advised that at the Personnel Board meeting the Highway Operator's position was upgrade and the hourly rate of pay that is being recommended \$17.85. The current rate for Fiscal Year 2009 is \$17.53 which includes the 3% increase. On behalf of the Personnel Board, Ms. Lund was asked to notify the Advisory Committee of this fact so that sufficient funds would be included in the Highway Department budget for Fiscal Year 2009. During the calculation, it was noted that there are sufficient funds in this account even though the hourly rate for this fiscal year is less. After checking other Highway Department wage budgets it was found that they too were over budgeted. This matter will be discussed with the Town Accountant. Ms. Lund will contact the Highway Department to determine how the wages were calculated and make any changes if necessary.

### **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – ARTICLE 3**

Ms. Lund advised that at the last meeting the committee neglected to make a recommendation as to how to fund the restoration of the historic map funds although the committee had voted to recommend the article.

Mr. Holdcraft moved; Mr. Burnham seconded to recommend that the money be transferred from Free Cash; so voted.

### **CONTINUATION OF MEETING**

Mr. Burnham moved; Mr. Holdcraft seconded to continue the meeting beyond 9:00 PM; so voted.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

It was the consensus of the Committee to stay with the ATM recommendations as they are for now and see what happens at the meeting. It was also the consensus of the group to hold meetings during the summer to work on ways to help the department become more fiscally responsible and to forward any and all recommendations to the Selectmen. In this very tight financial time, the committee feels that each budget needs to be reviewed in its entirety for further reductions and fine tuning. It is the opinion of the committee that next year's state aid, local receipts and available funds are going to be less than this year's which is going to call for tighter fiscal management.

### **TRANSFER STATION REVENUE LEDGER DETAIL – Fiscal 2007 and 2008 (to date)**

This information was provided to the Committee by the Town Accountant. It was noted that the Fiscal 2008 report ends on February 17, 2008 and it appears that no deposits or revenues have been turned in to the Treasurer since that date. This issue will be checked after the Town Meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Highway Department Gas Report March, 2008** – This report was presented to the members for their review.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Lund moved; Mr. Burnham seconded to adjourn the meeting; so voted.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly A. Lund, Secretary

Date approved by Advisory Committee: April 30, 2008

Date submitted to Selectmen: May 1, 2008