

Milford Budget Advisory Committee
Approved Minutes
January 7, 2014

Present: Matt Lydon, Karen Mitchell, Jim Roccio,
Chris Pank, Peg Seward, Jolie Whitten,
Bert Becker, Paul Bartolomucci

Absent: Steve Sareault

Guests: Gary Daniels (Chairman, Board of Selectman)
Jack Sheehy (Director of Finance)
Dave Boucher (Water/Sewer Utilities)

Business: Meeting called to order at 6:33 by Matt Lydon

Water/Sewer Utilities

Dave Boucher presented the proposed 2015 water/sewer utilities budget showing an increase in the Wastewater Operating budget of 4.9%. Some of the contributing factors to the increase in the wastewater budget are: sewer rehabilitation (annual upgrades), merit increase of 2% for Town employees, replacement sludge pump at wastewater facility (1 a year being replaced before they all break and cause large expense at once) and a new dump body for year 2000 dump truck (truck low mileage, but body rotted – less expensive to rebuild than buy new). There was a slight increase to the proposed 2015 Water Operating budget of 0.9%. Some of the contributing factors to this increase are: needed repairs to the 2001 backhoe (used for hydrant maintenance and water breaks), merit increase of 2% for Town employees and a replacement 3” diaphragm pump and hydrostatic test pump for water mains. It is important to note that these utilities and their maintenance are paid for by fees from the users, not all of the taxpayers and that the water budget is separate from the wastewater budget.

West Elm St. Water Main Extension

This is a proposed extension of the water main 3,300 ft along West Elm St (Route 101 West), which would add 5 new hydrants and water service to each property line for 17 potential new customers. The projected cost is \$792,000 through a 20-year bond and this would be paid for from the water budget, which is from water user fees. There is no need for sewer work here as it already exists. The need to do this work sooner rather than later is due to the fact that the State will be repaving this road in 2016 and after that the NHDOT puts a 5 year moratorium on any digging and work on that road.

Other Business

Gary Daniels presented and discussed additional warrant articles.

- 1) Solar Energy Exemption – in 1975 the Town voted to adopt a property tax exemption equal to the amount that the resident had spent on their solar energy (up to 10K) and they have been allowed to take this yearly since then - currently 2 people. The BOS consider this discriminatory against those who could not afford to install a solar energy system and be afforded the benefits associated with it.
- 2) Jones Rd. – looking at getting Town permission to start the ball rolling to re-open the road. The BAC is looking to add language to the article that states if the Town passes this authorization, future spending would be brought before the Town.
- 3) Parades and Flags – To include the cost of approximately \$300 for the flags on veteran's graves included in the \$6000 warrant article for the parades.
- 4) BAC warrant article – discussion with Gary Daniels and Kevin Federico regarding the charge of the BAC. The BAC

is looking for clarification as to whether they wish to have the definition of roles and responsibilities of the BAC change vs. closer adherence to current definition. There is debate as to whether the BAC should give input and vote on articles that do not have appropriation. The opinion of many on the BAC is that often times warrant articles do not have specific appropriation in the year that the vote gives authorization, but clearly down the road will need money spent to move forward with the work. It was also noted strongly that bringing this potential role change forward with only a few weeks before deliberative session seemed inappropriate. The BAC needs to focus purely on the Town budget and warrant articles at this point in time and is open to discussing the definition of it's duties after Deliberative Session.

Suzanne Fournier from the Brox Environmental Citizens spoke regarding the BROX property and money spent on studies done and provided handout to the BAC.

Budget and Bond Hearing is Mon, Jan 12 in the BOS room
The next meeting is 1/14/15 with MIT presenting
Thursday, Jan 15 the Town BAC will meet with the School BAC
Deliberative Session is Saturday, Jan 31, 2015
The meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm.
Respectfully submitted by, Karen Mitchell, Secretary