

Milford Budget Advisory Committee
Approved Minutes
November 19, 2014

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

Absent: Burt Becker

Guests: Gary Daniels (Chairman, Board of Selectman),
Jack Sheehy (Finance Director), Michelle Sampson
(Library Director), Ron Lamarre (Architect)

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

Library

Michelle Sampson presented the proposed 2015 library budget. Several line items were up for various reasons. GMILCS was up 14.5% as the Town had to start paying for a van currier service due to the State cutting funding of this service. The State van runs 2 times per week and the van paid for by the Town runs 3-4 times per week. Heat & gas was up 42.9% due to an increase in gas (the KWH are the same). Wages saw a 9.8% increase for 2 salary adjustments which were at the bottom of the range when first hired and are now at a more equitable level based on education and experience.

Library Renovation/Expansion Proposal

Michelle and Ron Lamarre (architect) presented the building proposal for the Town library in a power point presentation providing pictures of the space needs as well as the current state of the library and its need for renovation. The current Milford population is just over 15,000 and in comparison to other libraries in the State, per capita, we are among the smallest. The current building does not meet code and there is

a lot of damage and improperly constructed infrastructure from the 1986 addition.

There were three options presented to the Trustees and they have chosen the third, which is to tear down the existing library and to rebuild a new library. It would be in the place of the existing footprint of 14,000 sq. ft. plus an additional 8,100 sq. ft. of new building. The entire library would be 2 stories plus additional parking with green space one side of the building for future library programs use. The lower level would be for an adult library, a quiet meeting area, a community space and a utility space. The upper level would be for an adult library, a teen space, a utility space, an expanded children's library and a children's collection.

The "soup to nuts" cost proposed is \$5.46 million. This would include demolition, rebuilding, the parking lot, furniture, landscaping, etc. Michelle stated that much of the current furniture would be reused. The trustees are putting forth \$500k and the tax-payers are being asked for the remaining \$4.96 million. This would be a bond issue with a tax impact of \$0.33 per thousand. On a \$200k home, that would be a tax increase of \$66/year. A bond issue needs a 2/3 majority vote to pass.

If this does not pass, the library will have to consider what to do about the overwhelming repair needs (leaking plumbing, falling down insulation and ceiling tiles, structural foundation issues along with many more).

Construction would be slated to begin in Fall of 2015 with Phase 1 being the new addition and the estimated completion being Fall of 2016. At completion of the Phase 1 new building, the library's current use would move to that new area and Phase 2 to rebuild on the 1980 footprint would begin, estimating completion in Spring 2017. Phase 3 would be to rebuild on the 1950 footprint, estimating completion in Fall 2017.

Other Business

There was discussion around whether or not the BAC should vote on non-appropriation articles. The Board of Selectman are of the opinion that we should not vote on these issues.

Others on the BAC feel that it is our responsibility to the tax-payers to examine any issues to be voted on especially those that could, if passed, have future tax impact.

Chairman, Matt Lydon, asked for the BAC to get over and under runs of the department budgets before we take our final votes.

The BOS is still working with departments on their budgets.

The proposed 2015 Town budget is still coming in at an increase of 7.6%, which the BOS feels is still too high. The BOS have made the decision to reduce the Town raises from 3% to 2% for 2015.

Gary Daniels was asked about the status of the non-departmental funding form and he said he will be trying to finalize that with the BOS at this coming Mondays meeting. A suggestion was made for the Town BAC to meet at some point with the School BAC to ask questions of each others budgets and discuss the overall tax impact together.

The next meeting is 12/3/14.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21pm.

Respectfully submitted by, Karen Mitchell, Secretary