

**Milford Budget Advisory Committee**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**December 27, 2017**

**Present:** Karen Mitchell, Chris Pank, Wade Campbell,  
Bob Courage, Matt Lydon, Paul Dargie, George  
Skuse, Paul Bartolomucci and Peg Seward

**Absent:**

**Guests:** Dave Boucher, Chris Labonte (School Budget Committee)

**Business:** Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Matt Lydon

**Water Department Operating Budget**

The overall water budget is up 5.5% for budget year 2018. The water budget is funded solely by user fees. Increases for 2018 include some, but not all of the following contributing factors: Addition of a water truck driver, updates needed to the Town's Water Distribution Maps, increase in employment benefit expenses, Curtis Well pump station interior fence paving, Mayflower Water Storage Tank interior structure work, utility truck mounted air compressor and proposed 2% merit salary increase. One offset to the budget is the decrease in debt service costs of \$13,300.

There was discussion around how successful the capital reserves fund has been for the Water and Sewer Departments. Some of the projects to come out of the capital reserve fund have been:

- Border St. – insufficient flows and pressures – done in 2016
- 2003 utility truck to replace and read meters and flush hydrants – being replaced this year – to be done in 2018
- King St. water main – been a problem for years – brittle pipe – 16 different patching jobs due to water breaks – approx. \$225k – to be done in 2018

There has been \$1,368,934 used over the past seven years without having to borrow funds (listed in page 25 of water budget under depreciation).

The water department is having a ten-year water plan done this year as well as a rate study. There could be a bond issue next year

for some upgrading to increase efficiency as well as better circulation along with less maintenance.

The user fees look at a ten-year span of projects as well as maintenance of above ground structures. A lot of new users this year due to the new apartments and houses built. There is not a lot of extra flow needed, but there are more users. There is an entrance fee to buy into using the system. Ex. \$37k for each of the apartment buildings on Capron Rd.

There has been a supply issue in the dry summer months and Milford has started instituting a conservation plan for users. We have still had to open the Pennichuck mains in the summer.

Pennichuck costs twice what Milford user fees cost as they are now owned by Nashua as a municipality.

Milford had almost given up on the search for new water sources, but we are working with a new company, which looks promising.

They are currently in Phase II and hopefully there will be some new sites and possible test drilling. We are also going back to look at possibilities at the BROX property.

There was a question regarding the actual vs. adopted budget under the depreciation line item on page 25. Dave will get this information for us as well as the default budget which has been determined and is with Jack Sheehy.

#### Wastewater Operating Budget

The overall wastewater budget is up 6.3% for budget year 2018.

Increases for 2018 include some, but not all of the following contributing factors: New debt service (Ultra Violet Light Disinfection System Upgrade complete), increase in wastewater process odor control chemicals and grit screening disposal and proposed 2% merit salary increase.

One offset to the budget is the decrease in the cost of employee benefits expenses of \$31,900.

The capital reserves balances for water is \$550k and for sewer is \$600k. The Water and Sewer commissioners spend the money when needed.

Some planned projects to come out of the capital reserve fund totaling about \$123, 515 are:

- Waste pump
- New MCC panel

- Truck mounted sander
- Skater System upgrade – computer program
- Sludge Dewatering unit (total package = 1 mil) – for 2019 and would be a bonded item
- Every year the Commission tries to replace a pump to keep ahead of the curve. The same concept is applied with the MCC panels.

Up 860% under other contracted services on page 8 is due to the increase usage of more slip lining. This is like a felt sock that has a chemical resin injected into it and it is put into a pipe inside out. Hot water inverts and sets the resin. Robots cut a hole in the end of the sock to provide an opening. We have used miles of this to increase the life and use of old pipe in Town. The average daily intake is about 1.2 million/gallons/day. The facility capacity is 2.15 million/gallons/day.

#### Preliminary Voting Continued

- Waiting for a default budget on water and sewer
- Sidewalk Plow – size of plow questions such as unplowed streets as well as need for having back up plow if other one breaks
- Pumpkin Festival – still waiting for answers on who is going to pay for the detail work if Milford does not receive any of the profits from the festival.
- Encumbered Funds – concern about how things are getting purchased for upcoming years rather than using the remaining money to offset taxes. Ex. \$238k extra this year – but spent it on stuff and then increase those budgets.
- AFSCME – extended contract for one year
- Article 23 – exemption not to exceed 50% of the valuation and run for a period of 10 years. It will be industrial.
- Auth. to grant Commercial/Industrial Tax Relief – tabled
- Keyes Authorization warrant – DRA wording – debate for clarity of whether or not it is allowed to state amended in the article.

The next meeting will be Jan. 3 in the Ambulance meeting room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by, Karen Mitchell, Secretary