

Pownal Budget Committee
MINUTES
April 30, 2014

Present: Andy Wyatt, Carlene Harvey, John Green, Kim Best, Kathy Hogue

Excused: Jan Pieter van Voorst van Beest

Guests: Scott Seaver, Craig Vosmus, Rodney Richards, Paul Schumann, David Steckler

1. Chairman Andy Wyatt called the meeting to order, 7:00pm.
2. Minutes of April 9 were approved with a few small corrections. John will make the corrections and email them to Scott Seaver.
3. Public Comment: None
4. Selectmen's input: None
5. Presentation of proposed budgets
 - a. Cemeteries / Craig Vosmus: Craig reported that the total interest earned from July 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014, was \$1,890.25. Expenses for last year totaled \$4,912.52 which covers mostly maintenance of cemeteries, equipment and fuel. To date, the C.C. owes the Town \$3,148.39 as the interest earned did not cover the expenses. If a plot is sold, that revenue would reduce the amount owed. Craig also reported that there are always projects to do that often don't get done mostly due to time and money. The Town has appropriated \$1,000 for the past several years; this money is required for the maintenance of any veteran's graves.
MOTION: Andy moved that the Town appropriate \$2,000 for Cemeteries; 2nd and all voted in favor.
 - b. Revenues / Scott Seaver: Scott presented Revenue Projections for 14/15. The 4 major changes are:
 - i. Line 002 Auto Excise was increased \$25,000 due to increase in collections.
 - ii. Line 004 Town Fees was decreased by \$200 due to more on-line services so we lose some clerk fees.
 - iii. Line 015 Real Estate Interest was increased by \$3,100 due to the increase in tax liens.
 - iv. Bag Sales shows a decrease of \$24,500 due to the reduction of expected bag sales A total decrease in revenue, \$800.
 - c. Capital Projects / Rodney Richards, Paul Schumann, David Steckler: Paul presented a thoughtfully crafted Excel Spreadsheet showing a 20-year projected Capital Plan Model. This model will allow the committee and the Town to invest in long-range planning for expected upgrades, road repair and equipment replacement. This plan can help look at the capital burden on the Town and to develop a metric based on debt service and appropriation against tax commitment. Over time, our request from the tax base will level out with debt service owed. Planning ahead will reduce the need to bond and will put money aside for needed upgrades/purchases and in this way help to bring debt service down. The committee hopes to begin looking at investment opportunities this year, as well. The request for this tax year is \$175,000, a \$10,000 increase from last year.
MOTION: Andy moved to appropriate \$175,000 for Capital Projects. 2nd and all voted in favor.
 - d. Review of draft of Annual Report Narrative. Some editing suggestions were made. Andy will have this ready for the Annual Report.

NEXT MEETING: May 7, 2014

Meeting Adjourned: 8:37pm

Kathleen. A. Hogue