

Winthrop Town Council Budget Review Meeting: 6:00 PM, April 27, 2016

Attending: 7 Councilors; M. McLaughlin, L. Cole, P. Ames, L. Steeves, M. Burnham, M. Main, C. Swanson, P. Nielsen, P. Cottrell, MJ Auns, R. Pelletier, J. King, R. Fortin, M. Hanson, B. Monagle, L. Huff, W. Dennis.

Michele McLaughlin presented the General Assistance section of the budget. Projected expenses are down, revenue is up due to a change in the state reimbursement law.

Larry Cole presented the Transfer Station section of the budget. There were questions and suggestions to save costs on lighting, and on the number of workers. Larry explained the need for a replacement skid steer to reduce repair bills and improve safety.

Matt Burnham presented the Public Works budget proposal. He highlighted a number of reductions in electricity, culverts, and fuel. He estimated the easy winter saved \$46,000-\$50,000 in overtime, fuel, and truck and plow parts. Under Capital Improvements, the Department seeks to replace a pick up/plow truck, a loader, and a truck body.

Paul Cottrell presented the Library's request for support. The budget shows an increase partially offset with new revenue offered at the beginning of the year by the Trustees. A change was made in Line 60-175 lowering the requested amount to \$500 to correct a typo.

Lonney Steeves presented the Recreation Department section of the budget. Funds are added this year to enable the summer workers to receive their first paycheck in June 2017, rather than having to wait until the new fiscal year begins. The new Rec budget presents program revenue and expenses in greater detail than in the past, to assist future decision making. The Council voted to approve the staffing lines for the Rec Department to facilitate summer hiring (Jenkins/Caprara, 7-0).

The Council requested the Rec Director and the Town Manager make arrangements for additional Porta Pottys at Norcross Point, and extend the season for those and at the beach, and make necessary adjustments to the Recreation budget.

Bill Monagle presented the Cobbossee Watershed District assessment. The Council asked about the benefits Winthrop receives from the District proportionate to its assessment. Bill recapped the District's work in Winthrop, and the waters that affect Winthrop.

Wendy Dennis discussed Winthrop's unmade financial arrangements for its share of the Maranacook Dam repair. The dam's recent history and condition were reviewed. Wendy agreed to conduct an on site tour for the Council on Monday 5/2/16 at 5:30 PM.

John Dovinsky presented background information on Winthrop Ambulance Service operations. He followed his review with a budget presentation for the department. He described the loss of non-emergency transport activity and fees.

The Council suggested ways to achieve electricity savings and debated whether fee hikes

are in order for the communities we serve. John described the need to replace the M3 ambulance, and purchase safety vests for potential hostile situations faced by the crews. The Council was interested in finding less costly ways to meet this item. The Council asked the Town Manager and/or the Ambulance Director to contact the communities we serve for contributions to help pay for the vests.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 PM.