

BUDGET HEARING
January 5, 2002
Room 204 8:30 A.M.



Don gave an overview of the process they would be following for this meeting. The chairman called the meeting to order

RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES - Tom Tidman and Nancy McShea were present to discuss their budgets. They discussed the capital request for mowers and a truck and stage lighting as well as proposed playground improvements. Fin Com and the Board asked questions about their budgets.

ACCOUNTING - COMPTROLLER - Karen gave her overview and answered questions regarding FTE's.

ASSESSORS – Brian outlined the issues of his department and answered several questions regarding software and abatements.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER – Garry presented his budget and answered questions.

TOWN CLERK AND VOTER REGISTRATION – Ed Ellis outlined the Town Clerk and Special Elections budgets. Trey wanted to know what the redistricting was going to cost the Town.

COUNCIL ON AGING – Jean Flemming outlined the increase and capital items. There was considerable discussion on the free programs and whether the seniors would still come if there were charges.

FINANCE DIRECTOR – Steve Barrett gave an overview of his visions for the department and the problems with Pentimation. He says that Pentamation programs do not do anything easily. He was asked about including different items in the capital budget. Herman asked about Workman's Comp increase and unemployment payments. He asked about Premiums.

ENGINEERING DEPT. David Abbt spoke about the vacancy in his department and outside use of Eric Durling and that we pay for his services. He discussed ongoing projects as well as storm water management and Plowing of Private Ways. Sidewalk plan was discussed and how the loss in manpower affects the departments and projects.

FIRE – Chief Craig discussed the decrease in his budget due to retirements. He did caution the upcoming legal labor issues could change that slight decrease.

He discussed the Fire Alarm Revolving Account. He spoke about the condition of his cruiser and requested replacement with an SUV. Dore' wanted more information about the fleet before we spend this money. Who has the control and responsibility of the Emergency Management Procedures notebook? Chief Craig said they have it at the stations and offered to have Dore' come in and review it.

BOARD OF HEALTH AND NURSING – Merrily spoke about their JACO accreditation and their high score. They are in good shape.

Doug spoke about Hazardous Waste day. Dore' suggested a larger fee for Large TV and Computer screens. Peter asked Doug to develop a fee schedule and put in place ASAP.

Herman asked for the revolving accounts information ASAP.

HR –VETERAN'S SERVICES Charlie Jones – overview of his budget and request for Cannon File replacement. Dore asked that the state be notified to stop pushing the Full time Veteran's Agent on our community.

HIGHWAY NESWC – Dave Brown updated the group on the ongoing projects that they are involved in. They are not happy with the situation of sewers as that affects their paving program.

He noted that they have a handle on the brokerage.

He is requesting a pick up truck and proposed to give the old one to Tom Tidman. He will also propose new sanders.

Dore' asked about the loss of Chapter 90 funds and how sewage issues affects his department. Herman asked questions about the \$500,000 and after discussion was tabled to John and Herman to discuss.

IT - Mark Hald gave an overview of the positions that he had submitted for approval. It was noted that he is not being used effectively. It was noted we have not used the Cable Funds for any salary. Our Cable attorney had asked us not to spend the funds on this, but since the Cable Company had not been playing fair we should use the money. It was noted that we should get clearance from the Atty. before using this money.

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY Wanda Null outlined her budget requests. The proposed budget maintains the Bd of Libraries specifications and requirements. They only buy books under the state bid and have seen an increase of patrons up 15 percent each month for the last five months.

MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES – Dean Charter answered the questions asked by Fin Com. They asked about the status of the Vailencourt house.

PLANNING – Roland Bartle spoke about the three boards and Committees that are operating under the Planning Board. They are dealing with the Citizen Petitions for zoning as well as Golf Course and Robbins Brook.

POLICE DEPARTMENT Chief Widmayer outlined his budget request as well as his need to fill positions that have been open for too long which create manpower problems.

WEST ACTON LIBRARY – Rosalie DiQuattro discussed the WAL and how it differs from the AML with regard to patrons and expectations, and the feel of this smaller library. They still deliver books; they have large print volumes as well as providing an extensive children's program.

TOWN MANAGER – Salaries are up and they are looking to replace the part-time person in the Office. Peter asked about parking tickets and out of state travel as well as emergency Management requests.

Christine Joyce
Christine Joyce

Pamela Harting-Barrat
Pam Harting-Barrat, Clerk

2/4/02
Date