

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2014 8:00 AM
Town Hall, 7 Summer Street

Present: Committee Members: Sam Lincoln, Frederick Hauser
Municipal Staff: Mel Adams, Michael deCubellis

Absent: Committee Members: Perry Armstrong
Selectboard Representative: Dennis Brown

Meeting was called to order by Sam Lincoln at 8:12 AM.

- 1) Minutes of previous meeting were approved.
- 2) Review YTD Financials
 - a) The Committee reviewed the financials as of June 2014 dated 09/09/2014.
 - b) Revenue collected is almost \$280k over budget due to the success of attempts to collect delinquent taxes.
 - c) While no Recreation Revenue was included in the budget, over \$22k has been collected as a result of taking back the operation of the pool, camp, and rink from the Boys and Girls Club.
 - d) Sam questioned how it was possible that spending was well over budget for plow blades and chains for snow removal without a corresponding increase in labor. Mel explained that it was due to a very icy winter which, while not requiring extra hours, created excess wear and tear on equipment. The need to use more salt as opposed to sand also contributed.
 - e) Rick noted that various insurance items often show large variances from budget. Michael indicated that it should be possible to use information from our insurance carriers to better budget for the subsequent year.
 - f) A draft of the fiscal year 2016 budget will be available in 2-3 weeks.
- 3) Prepare for 2016 budget process
 - a) Mel indicated that items where the budget exceeds actual expenses will be reviewed to ensure that tax rates are not higher than necessary.
- 4) Other Business
 - a) Tax sale of properties has been going well. Most of the town's delinquent tax balances are now under payment arrangements.
 - b) Only approximately \$100k in uncollected taxes are now outstanding.
- 5) Set Next Meeting Date
Next meeting is scheduled for October 14 at 8:00 AM
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM