

# DRAFT MINUTES

## Budget Recommendations Committee      December 4, 2012

Present: Chairman Corey Stevens, Vice-Chair Harry Thayer, Don Woodward, Bob Kelly, Bob Wentworth, Rob Corson, Allan Corey, Selectman Frank Ferraro, Selectman Dan Chartrand, Town Manager Russell Dean.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stevens at 6:00 p.m.

The following meeting minutes were reviewed:

- October 25, 2012 – minutes from the all-day session as recorded by Laura Jeffords and amended by Corey Stevens. Mr. Thayer moved to approved as amended, Mr. Corson seconded, minutes approved.
- November 8, 2012 – Mr. Thayer requested that “Exeter” be inserted on page one to read “Chief Kane noted that 29 Exeter children.” Mr. Corson moved to approve minutes as amended, Mr. Thayer seconded, minutes approved. Mr. Woodward abstained.
- November 13, 2012 – minutes amended by Corey Stevens. Mr. Kelly moved to approve minutes as amended, Mr. Wentworth seconded, minutes approved.
- November 15, 2012 – on page 2, “original Water Works Treatment Plant building” will be inserted under the heading Water Fund-Capital Outlay. Mr. Woodward moved to approve minutes as amended, Mr. Corson seconded, minutes approved.
- November 20, 2012 – the following edits will be made:
  - Page 1 – correct typo to “is” so sentence reads “. . . so this request is for next year,” insert “Unitil” so sentence reads “. . . the use of Unitil trucks to put up the lighting,” insert “one” so sentence reads “Mr. Woodward seconded, one opposed, motion carried.”
  - Page 2 – Revise sentence to read “Mr. Thayer moved to approve \$11,350 for other Arts & Culture, Mr. Wentworth seconded, motion carried.” Under Fire Department Sub-station heading, insert “Federal Safer grant.”
  - Remove all highlighted editorial inquires/comments.

Mr. Thayer moved to approve the November 20, 2012 minutes as amended, Mr. Corson seconded, minutes approved.

Mr. Thayer reported that, at the 12/3/12 Board of Selectmen meeting, it was recommended that the total budget increase be reduced from 3.1% to 2.5%.

### SELECTMEN COMMENTS:

Mr. Clement reported it is recommended that the Deputy Town Clerk position stay part-time as there is no work-flow analysis to support otherwise. Other recommendations for reducing the budget include reducing the paving budget by \$50K, eliminate the Systems Operator position, and reduce the street light expenditures by \$10K as well as eliminate the \$10K for consulting fees.

Mr. Ferraro agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk position should remain at part-time. He also suggests, under Finance, to reduce the amount for Conferences and Training by \$500 for each staff member. Also, the Arts Committee does not need funds for webhosting fees as they should be part of the Town website; additionally, eliminate the expenditure for new DPW vehicles and instead purchase used police cars.

Mr. Chartrand recommends that the BOS budget incorporate \$8K to use for the noise study in connection with the Exeter Sportman's Club issue.

Ms. Gilman noted that \$20K will be requested for the upcoming 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary town event.

In conclusion, the overall goal of the Board of Selectmen's recommendations are to reduce the total budget by \$100K and therefore reducing the budget increase to 2.5%

Mr. Kelly noted that the paving budget, at \$950K, could be reduced by more than \$50K. Also, he noted that at least \$10K was spent in 2012 for consulting and legal fees so it is likely at least the same amount will be needed in 2013.

Mr. Stevens suggested leave in the GIS which Mr. Clement agreed. However, Mr. Clement did not want to support the Wetlands mapping software costs.

Mr. Ferraro reiterated that the Conference and Training budget should be reduced since those funds have remained unused for three years. He emphasized the difference between items that are "need to have" vs. nice to have." Mr. Ferraro also supports the recommendation that social services requesting additional funding should be filed as citizen's petitions and not as separate warrant articles. Mr. Dean said that a citizen's petition had already been filed for \$2000.00 for Womanage.

Mr. Ferraro and Mr. Chartrand thanked the Budget Recommendation Committee for all their hard work. Mr. Clement said an increase of only 2.5% is the goal and hoped a balance could be met. Mr. Wentworth suggested that efforts be made to insure that the level-funded social services agencies are indeed serving the Town of Exeter.

Mr. Kelly mentioned that warrant articles for election of town officers will occur in March and that the BOS will take applications. Mr. Chartrand noted that the Budget Recommendation Committee needs more female members.

Mr. Thayer moved to adjourn, Mr. Corson seconded. Roll call: unanimous. The committee stood adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris deZarn-O'Hare  
Recording Secretary