

Final Budget Hearing Minutes

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Present: Selectman Maxfield, Ives, and Bowles.

Chairman opened the Town of Loudon FY 2008 – 2009 final Budget Hearing at 7:00 PM.

- I. Chairman Maxfield reviewed the changes to the budget since the first hearing on January 22, 2008 as follows:
 - a. Historical Society: This line is increased to \$2,500.00 due to the justification of the Historical Society members for new computer equipment and software.
 - b. Police Department: Regular Salary line is increased to \$336,313.00.
 - c. Health Department: Health Dept. Wage line is increased to \$2,694.00.
 - d. Compliance: Compliance/Code Enforce Wage line is increased to \$27,240.00. Compliance/Code Asst. Wage line is increased to \$9,385.00 due to an increase in the amount of hours for that position.
 - e. Capital Reserve Funds: Library Collection Maintenance Fund is increased to \$7,000.00 due to the minutes of the budget workshop with the Library Trustees. Janice Morin asked what the purpose of this fund was for. Selectman Bowles stated that this fund was established in 1994 to increase the volume of books due to the expansion of the Library. Ms. Morin asked how long this fund was going to be included in the budget when there are line items for books and reference materials. Selectman Bowles stated that he has been trying to cut this line back or do away with it but the minutes of the budget work session reflect that it was to remain at \$7,000.00. He said the Board decreased it to \$5,000.00 after meeting with the Trustees and have since readjusted the figure to the \$7,000.00 based on the findings of the minutes. Selectman Bowles stated that unless someone amended the figure from the floor at Town Meeting, this fund will remain in place. Deb Kardaseski stated that the Library spends down the fund every year. The Selectmen stated that typically the money is spent every year; however, sometimes money is carried over to another fiscal year. The Board stated that the Trustees are named as agents to expend the funds so they do not have to wait until Town Meeting each year to request the monies. Ms. Morin asked why the money was not in as part of their regular budget lines for the same purpose. Selectman Bowles said that it was an established Capital Reserve Fund and unless someone proposes at Town Meeting to eliminate this Capital Reserve Fund, then it will remain in effect until such time as it is revoked.
 - f. Selectman Ives moved to amend the account #01-42190-100-125 Ambulance Wage – FF/EMT's line from \$86,511.00 to \$91,129.00 and

account #01-42190-100-130 Ambulance Wage – OT Wages FF/EMT’s line from \$14,032.00 to \$14,238.00 due to changes in fulltime Fire Department personnel. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried.

- II. Chairman Maxfield began the review of changes to the proposed Warrant Articles.
- a. Chairman Maxfield stated that at the recommendation of the DRA, the Board has removed the line at the end of the proposed Warrant Articles that states “The Selectmen recommend this article”, with the exception of Article #6 as suggested by DRA. He said that DRA advised the Board that only Special Warrant Articles and Collective Bargaining Units Articles need the Selectmen’s recommendation.
 - b. Chairman Maxfield stated that Article #5 has been reduced to \$185,940.00 and that they have removed Storrs Drive and Hollow Route Road from the list of roads to be repaved.
 - c. Chairman Maxfield stated that DRA has recommended that the wording of Article #8, pertaining to the adoption of the budget, be worded to have the exact budget amount listed. It was discussed that if there are any changes to the budget at Town Meeting, the amended figure needs to be calculated and included in the motion to approve Article #8.
 - d. Ms. Morin asked why the Board made the change to Article #5. Chairman Maxfield stated that the Board is planning to have the Road Agent fix all the culverts and headers on Hollow Route Road this year and then next year pave the road. He said that a portion of Storrs Drive will be paved with the funds from the Highway Department Road Maintenance budget. Selectman Bowles stated that the Board looked at the proposed projects and felt that they were getting spread out throughout town too much, and decided that ditch work and drainage work needed to be addressed. He said that if the Town is hit with damaging storms, it will make it difficult to keep up with additional projects previously proposed. Deb Kardaseski asked if Storrs Drive was going to be paved with the money from the regular operating budget. Selectman Bowles said it was not going to be paved; it would probably be graded, shimmed, and oiled as would some of the other roads. He said there are several roads that need to have cracks sealed. The Board stated they are trying to do some preventative and maintenance projects. Chairman Maxfield stated that there is \$55,000.00 in the Road Maintenance line, approximately \$140,000.00 in the Highway Block Grant from the State, and the Oil and Asphalt line has \$50,000.00.
 - e. Transfer Station Manager Steve Bennett gave a brief overview of the Household Hazardous Waste Day. He stated that the Town would contract with Clean Harbors to come in and provide a turn-key operation. Mr. Bennett said that by having the information of what items are accepted available prior to the day of the event, it helps keep the costs down. He said there are already some items that the Transfer Station accepts such as waste oil and some household cleaners. Mr. Bennett stated the projected cost is between \$4,000.00 - \$5,000.00 so the Town has

to have the \$5,000.00 figure in the Warrant Article just in case the final cost is over \$4,000.00. He stated that some town's hold events in the spring and in the fall. Mr. Bennett said that the most asked question at the Transfer Station is when Loudon is going to have a Household Hazardous Waste Day. He stated the event will be for Loudon residents only and they will probably need to have proof of residency. Mr. Bennett stated that there would need to be at least one Transfer Station attendant on site to tend to this event.

- f. Selectman Ives moved to adopt the proposed operating budget for FY July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 in the amount of \$4,297,718.00. Seconded by Selectman Bowles. All in favor. Motion carried.
- g. Janice Morin asked if the Board knew what the overall affect of the tax rate would be. Chairman Maxfield stated he has not recalculated the figures but it appears to be a 1% increase over last year's budget.
- h. John Plummer asked about the funds for Article #6. The Board stated that this is for the future purchase of a road grader. They are not planning on the purchase this year. Selectman Ives stated the fund is being established so if in the future, the Town is able to obtain a used grader, with low usage, there will be funds available.

Chairman Maxfield closed the Budget Hearing at 7:30 PM.

THE LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Roger A. Maxfield, Chairman

Steven R. Ives, Selectman

Dustin J. Bowles, Selectman