

**Board of Selectmen/Budget Advisory Committee
WORKSHOP/MEETING**

Board of Selectmen's Room

**March 16, 2016
4:30p.m.**

Board Members Present: Bernard N. King Jr., Chairman; Robert J. McHatton Sr., Vice Chairman; Gregory N. Watkins and Paul E. Hoyt. Absent: Kenneth J. Murphy.

Budget Committee Members Present: Earl Cash Sr.; Arthur Triglione Sr.; Vanessa Jones and William Vincent.

Also Present: Bob A. Peabody Jr., Town Manager and Georgiann M. Fleck, Deputy Town Manager. Absent: Charisse Keach, Finance Officer.

1. Call to Order

Chairman King called the meeting to order at 4:30p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2016

The Minutes were approved by consensus of the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.

4. Review of the Following Accounts

- 316 – Hydrants (Should be account 250)
- 251 – Ambulance
- 252 – Street Lights
- 290 – Septic Disposal
- 345 – HAM Complex
- 499 – Contingency
- 522 – Outside Agency Services
- 857 – Capital Expense Reserve
- 856 – Capital Expense (if applicable to any Departments above)

Deputy Town Manager Fleck distributed revised budget sheets resulting from the meeting of March 9, 2016.

Town Manager Peabody said I made adjustments to the budget resulting in a savings of approximately \$17,000.00. As a result I increased the proposal for the Salmon Point playground equipment by \$5,000.00 Budget Member Jones asked if it was the same set-up as Woods Pond. Town Manager Peabody said yes. Budget Member Jones said I would like to suggest that it be different offering different activities so the playground equipment differs from each site. The Members concurred.

Selectmen Hoyt said I don't think we need to eliminate the existing swings which are good condition and are the same ones that the school currently uses. Town Manager Peabody said our beaches are part

of Bridgton's economic vitality and aesthetically these swings are atrocious and are a safety hazard. Discussion ensued.

As a result, the consensus of the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee was to approve the proposed amount for an upgrade in equipment and consider options that would be different from what is currently at Woods Pond.

The Board of Selectmen and Budget Advisory Committee began review of the budgets submitted for the above accounts.

250 – Hydrants

Town Manager Peabody said this is contractual.

251 – Ambulance

Town Manager Peabody said this is contractual.

252 – Street Lights

Town Manager Peabody said this is contractual.

290 – Septic Disposal

Town Manager Peabody said we are required by State Law to provide a place for the disposal of septic waste, therefore, we have a location in Portland and Lewiston/Auburn.

345 – HAM Complex

Jim Kidder, Public Works Director and Gary Colello, Recreation Director were present representing the HAM Complex budget.

Selectman Watkins said our position this evening is not to decide if we are going to accept the HAM Complex or not but to determine the operating budget if we do accept it. Budget Member Triglione said if what you are saying is true and we have not accepted the Complex yes then we should not be reviewing the operational budget at this time. Selectman McHatton said I expect this will take place before Town Meeting. Town Manager Peabody said if the Complex is not accepted then the budget can be decreased by the proposed amount during Town Meeting. Budget Member Triglione said what is the status of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Bridgton and HAM because we have not been privy to that document? Selectman McHatton said it might be before the Board of Selectman at the next meeting. Budget Member Cash said I would like to see the name changed from HAM to Bridgton. Also, there is infrastructure within the Town that needs so much attention like the streets and instead of taking care of our infrastructure we are building ballfields. Selectman McHatton said the first year the budget is likely to be higher until you can determine what is needed and what is not. Discussion ensued.

345-1-1012 – Part Time

Selectman Hoyt said I don't think you will need two people. Director Kidder said this is an establishment that will be operating 7 days a week. I am considering 1 full-time and 1 part-time and using the same full-time employee in another department during the off season. Director Colello said there will be

approximately 70 home games, 6-7 games a week. Budget Member Triglione said when does the season begin and end? Director Colello said usually June to October. Discussion ensued.

As a result, the consensus of the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee was to approve the proposed 2 people.

345-1-1030 – Overtime

This line will cover the possibility of overtime which may or may not be needed.

Selectman McHatton proposed reducing this line from \$1,000.00 to \$0.00. Discussion ensued.

As a result, the consensus of the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee was to reduce account 345-1-1030 to \$0.00.

345-3-2003 – Advertising

Director Colello said this line will be used to advertise new programming such as bubble soccer.

345-3-2114 – Travel Expense

Director Kidder said this line will be used if the employee needs to use their personal vehicle to pick up supplies locally.

345-3-2605 – Electricity

Selectman Watkins said when will the snack shack be operational? Selectman Hoyt said it is not included in this budget. Town Manager Peabody said the snack shack will be owned by the Town and will generate a small revenue.

345-3-3230 – Equipment Purchases

Budget Member Vincent said this line should be reduced to \$0.00 until the Complex is accepted by the Town of Bridgton. It appears that with the proposed \$50,000.00 and the \$30,000.00 in reserve you have \$80,000.00 for a mower! Town Manager Peabody said the \$30,000.00 was appropriated toward the purchase of another piece of equipment. Selectmen Hoyt said the group that is currently mowing the field felt that this was too much money also for a mower. Director Kidder said this is a commercial type mower, aerator, push mowers and necessary hand tools. The fields need to be aerated constantly which is not being done currently.

Selectman Hoyt said bubble soccer? Director Colello said this is an activity that has generated a lot of interest and is not offered anywhere North of Boston. This is a unique sport that could bring in significant revenue which in turn would benefit the fields as well as attract people to Bridgton. It is included in this account because there didn't seem to be a more appropriate account at this time.

345-4-4005 – Dust Control

Selectmen King said on Home Run Road or BRAG Way? Director Kidder said either, whichever one needs it.

345-4-4700 – Signs and Maint.

This line item will cover a sign for the Main Road as well as 10 sponsors for each field (2 x \$75.00 a sign with sponsors paying \$200.00)

Selectmen Hoyt said will it be for one year? Director Colello said it will be a 2 year agreement with each sponsor, 10 sponsors for each of the two fields. The sponsor will pay \$200.00 resulting in \$125.00 from each sign as revenue for the Town of Bridgton.

499 - Contingency

Town Manager Peabody said this line item covers unexpected expenses that may occur during the budget year that have not been appropriated under any other account.

Budget Member Vincent proposed reducing this line item.

Town Manager Peabody said if the proposed amount is not used it is turned over to the Undesignated Fund Balance. Last year we carried the remaining amount forward because there was a project that had not been completed. Discussion ensued.

As a result, the consensus of the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee was to not reduce account 499.

522- Outside Agency Services

522-7-5150 – LRTV Franchise

Deputy Town Manager Fleck said that John Lishkis, Director of LRTV, could not present this evening, however, I did talk with Mr. Lishkis this morning and as a result submitted a memo to you regarding some concerns you expressed at the previous budget meeting (See attached). Selectman Watkins said I spent time reviewing LRTV's recordings and there are breaks in the voice and picture, they have upgraded equipment, like wireless mics, but reverted back to the table mics. Discussion ensued.

Selectmen Watkins proposed reducing the funding to \$30,000.00 - \$32,000.00.

Budget Member Triglione said I believe the Town receives approximately \$50,000.00 from the Time Warner Franchise fees? Steve Collins, Planning Board Member and Citizen, said I was on the Board of Selectmen at the time we negotiated the contract with Time Warner and the intent at that time was to use the franchise fees to support a local cable entity. Budget Member Triglione said LRTV should not be included as an outside agency, it should have its own cost center. Budget Member Vincent said if their equipment needs to be updated maybe we should be increasing their funding.

As a result of discussion, the consensus of the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee was to not reduce the funding to LRTV and create its own cost center.

522-7-5156 – Bridgton Comm Band

Selectman Hoyt proposed increasing the funding from 1,846.00 to \$2,308.00. Discussion ensued.

Budget Member Jones said I still feel that a policy should be created because I don't think that we should be determining who should receive funding and who should not. A policy would make it a fair process. Selectman Hoyt said maybe next year. Budget Member Jones said I have said this each year for the past three years and each year we begin the budget process we are right back at determining who should receive funding, who should not, who should be decreased and who should be increased and it is just not a fair process. Selectman McHatton said the Community Band is a group of volunteers that play every Wednesday during the summer and plays at special events. Budget Member Cash said there was \$14,000.00 put aside to build a new bandstand which was never done.

As a result of discussion, the consensus of the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee was to increase the proposed amount from \$1,846.00 to \$2,350.00.

Budget Member Cash proposed flat funding all the other outside agencies except LRTV and The Bridgton Community Band. Discussion ensued.

As a result of discussion, the consensus of the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee was to flat fund all the other outside agencies except LRTV and the Bridgton Community Band.

Selectmen Hoyt said Family Crisis recently received \$1,500.00 from CDBG funding and they also requested funding of \$2000.00 from the Town of Bridgton. Selectmen Watkins said and at the last budget meeting Finance Officer Keach brought up that some of these agencies receive funding from the County. Budget Member Jones said this is why we need a policy.

Following further discussion the consensus of the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee was to decrease account 522-7-8008 – Family Crisis from \$2,000.00 to \$500.00.

857 – Capital Expense Reserve

Discussion ensued with no change to this account.

Selectmen King said what other accounts do we still need to review? Deputy Town Manager Fleck said 115 Employee Benefits and 240 Insurances, however, Finance Officer Keach prepared most of the budget for these two accounts but could not be present this evening so you could begin review or postpone discussion to another meeting.

240 – Insurances

Town Manager Peabody said this is contractual.

115 – Employee Benefits

Selectman McHatton said employee benefits, including proposed increases, are not usually part of the joint discussion with the Budget Advisory Committee but discussed by the Board of Selectmen only.

5. Schedule Next Meeting

The Budget Advisory Committee scheduled a separate meeting for Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 6:00p.m. to review the budget and submit their proposal for consideration to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen did not schedule another joint meeting.

6. Other Topics for Discussion

Deputy Town Manager Fleck said at a previous meeting you discussed Board of Selectmen stipends and Selectman McHatton said the Planning Board and Appeals Board should also receive a stipend. The Planning Board was going to make a proposal to you for consideration and it was an agenda item at their recent meeting for discussion. I have not had the opportunity to prepare a memo so do you want to wait for the memo or do you want to discuss it at this meeting. Consensus was to discuss it this evening. Deputy Town Manager Fleck said the Planning Board does want to thank you for your consideration and would like to leave the determination of an amount up to the Board of Selectmen. Options to consider were an annual stipend or a cost per meeting/attendance. Discussion ensued.

As a result of discussion, the consensus of the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee was to allocate to the Planning Board Chairman a \$1,000.00 annual stipend and each member, including alternates, would receive a stipend of \$750.00 each.

Catherine Pinkham, Planning Board Member and Citizen, said I would like to thank the Board at this time for considering the Planning Board.

Deputy Town Manger Fleck said do you want to consider the Appeals Board at this time? Discussion ensued.

As a result of discussion, the consensus of the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee was to not designate a stipend for the Appeals Board but take it into consideration in the next budget.

7. Adjourn

Chairman King adjourned the meeting at 7:10p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Georgiann M. Fleck, Deputy Town Manager