

## MINUTES

### SELECTMEN'S MEETING

#### Budget Presentation/Public Hearing

February 12, 2018

The Campton Board of Selectmen met at 6:30 p.m. at the Campton Municipal Building. Present were Selectmen, Peter Laufenberg, Sharon Davis, Karl Kelly and Carina Park, Town Administrator. Selectmen Charlie Wheeler was absent. Chair Laufenberg opened the Bond Hearing.

The Town is seeking two long-term debt bonds with one being a lease purchase of a truck for the Highway Dept. of \$181,000 with \$60,000 being paid of Highway Capital Reserve fund; second bond is for the reconstruction of the Deer Run Pond Dam for \$300,000 (they are still exploring avenues for repairing the dam).

**Privilege of the Floor:** A resident asked about the dam. She wanted to know the age of the dam and what the issues are. Chair Laufenberg said the development was created in 1985 and is located on Puckerbrush Rd. Over the course of 30 years the metal, in the dam, has rusted out and water has been flowing under the culvert causing the road to start to collapse. The pond has been lowered by 5' and has been shored up with sand and gravel. The dam has been declared the town's responsibility by the state and they have been given until 2020 to repair or fix it. They might consider draining the pond although it is a fire pond and more work would have to be done in exploring this option. The resident asked if the bond were to pass would this be giving permission to do the work. Chair Laufenberg answered if Article 7 passes the town is being authorized to borrow \$300,000 which doesn't mean they will repair the dam but it gives them the authority to have access to the funds.

Chair Laufenberg said they know the cost to repair the dam (due to an engineer's report) will be \$300,000 but they wish to explore alternatives that won't be as costly to the town. Unfortunately due to the town meeting time line they decided to seek authorization and go from there.

Discussion on the history of the town became the "owner" of the dam.

Chair Laufenberg asked the public if there were any questions regarding the bond to purchase a truck for the highway department. The International will be replaced as it is near the end of its lifespan.

A resident asked if the town was expecting too much life from these vehicles. Mr. Cheney said it appeared this particular truck was a lemon.

Since there was no further public comments/questions Mrs. Davis made a motion to move the hearing; motion seconded by Mr. Kelly. All in favor. Public discussion is closed.

### **2018 Budget Hearing**

Chair Laufenberg gave a brief overview of the 2018 budget.

Budget is up about 3%. An increase of \$110,991.00 Overall there are couple of key items. 14% increase in healthcare costs with a 2% approved increase in COLA. There was also an approved merit pay for each employee in the amount of \$500. There was a reduction of \$215,000 in the highway budget as the Board moved \$195,000 for paving plus \$20,000 for gravel to create a new capital reserve for road improvements. There are changes in other budgets which they will talk about.

Carina Park, Town Administrator presented a PowerPoint visual which reflected the budget.

Chair Laufenberg continued with the SelectBoard's budget.

- Changes from last year town administrator's salary has an increase \$60,000 to \$70,000.
- Town Administrator health line reflects the increase plus the change in the policy
- Financial Administration office assistant/part-time bookkeeper has been restructured with full-time Finance/HR position. \$43,680 is the salary.
- Assessing services remained the same for the upcoming year
- Legal expenses ran over a bit but is hard to pin down from year to year. It is still at \$20,000
- Planning Board budget remained the same
- ZBA secretary remained the same as did town mapping.
- Insurances had some increase which was nominal
- Advertising and regional association only change is Day Away Program which was approved recently.
- Trust Management fees had an increase.
- Town Welfare was lowered from \$30,000 to \$25,000
- Payroll taxes went up slightly.
- Merit pay went down, only budgeting for \$500 whereas previous year was \$750

- Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office employees will be getting a 2% raise; and the health insurance increase of 14% is also reflected.
- Fees to the state increased \$7,000.
- Police Dept. major increase is salaries which are up \$37,000. Campton PD salaries are lower than surrounding towns leaving the town at risk of losing their certified officers.
- Health insurance is up \$17,873; retirement up \$20,913. Fuels and maintenance is also up. Office supplies does show a decrease.
- Holiday line is blank as they have to budget for holidays but they don't know how that will be at this point not knowing who will take them off and who will be on duty.
- Highway Dept. budget is flat in comparison to last year. The major change was the move of paving funds to capital reserves.
- Recreation budget is the same.
- Library is up \$1,800
- Fire Dept. increase in payroll.
- Building/Cemetery/Conservation/Patriotic purposes is down a little bit (Building). No changes on Patriotic or Conservation Commission.
- Water/Sewer and Long-Term Debt. Town of Thornton Solid Waste - last year they brought the fees down and they are being left as is for now. Chair Laufenberg added the transfer had record revenue this year due to sold recyclables.
- Beebe River Water/Sewer numbers have been lowered.
- Long-term debt has gone down as well.
- Capital Reserves Petition Warrant Articles. There was a change for the way they have funded Capital Reserves. A CIP committee was developed. The CIP suggested a Capital Reserve fund for the highway dept., and they have strategic funding for reserve accounts.
- The suggestion is to fund the highway heavy equipment with \$100,000 to replace a grader next year.
- Municipal Building Fund has been leveled at \$10,000 which also covers maintenance.
- Deer Run Dam has costs to be incurred.
- Library Construction Capital Reserve fund is asking for \$15,000

- Grand Total Budget is \$3,704,621. Adding the petition article brings it to \$3,719,671.

Wayne Charron asked about revenues and if they are budgeted in. Chair Laufenberg answered they are included.

Carina explained the figures on revenues.

Discussion on what towns were used for the police department wage comparison.

Discussion on pay scale for fire department.

Chair Laufenberg closed the Public Hearing at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pelchat, Transcriber

Approved by:

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Date \_\_\_\_\_