

Town of Atkinson
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
December 30, 2008

Attending: Jim Blackadar – Chairman, Dave Paquette Vice Chairman, Steve Giangregorio, Fred Thompson, Mari Anne Princiotta, Bill Friel ex-officio

Jim called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM. Jim stated that the plan for the evening is to go through the remaining budgets to determine what can be finalized. Also, Jim stated that the Police and Fire Chief would be coming in to discuss their budgets. Jim also shared the email he received from DRA regarding tracking any changes made at deliberative session on 1 line. DRA recommended that changes be accounted for on the line being changed. The Board reviewed the minutes from the December 9, 2008 meeting.

Dave motioned to accept the minutes as presented/Seconded by Steve G./Unanimous 4-0 (Bill and Mari Anne abstained).

The Board began reviewing the budgets as follows:

4130 – Executive

Elections and Registration – 4140

The Board discussed the email sent by the Moderator which indicated that under RSA's the Selectmen's office is responsible for the polling place and the Town Clerk is responsible for the Ballots. Based on the information, the Board added line 41401.550.00 – Printing and Binding to the Town Clerk's budget and funded it \$3,000 to cover the printing of ballots for 1 election.

Fred motioned to final accept the Elections & Registration budget in the amount of \$143,518/Seconded by Mari Anne/Unanimous 6-0

Financial Administration – 4150

The budget was tabled for input from the Technology Committee on the computer budget.

Police – 4210

Chief Consentino and LT Baldwin presented an adjustment to the Police budget to cover the cost of the air cards required for the SPOTs terminal. This is part of a warrant article that past last year. LT Baldwin stated that the additional cost is \$2,064. The

Board added these costs to the telephone line (42105.341), raising that amount to \$13,664. The Board discussed reducing the gas line based on the current price of gas. After some discussion the gas line was reduced to \$30,000 in the Police budget, but will remain at \$3,745 in the Elderly affairs budget.

Jim asked the Chief if he could highlight some of the main reasons why the Police budget was almost \$100K under for 2008. The Chief stated that the majority of the variance was in labor and insurance and was a direct reflection of the passing of Officer Lapham and Kinney. He also stated that he'd planned on additional patrols using part time officers, but he didn't have the available staffing during the week to do so.

The Board and the Chief discussed the part time officer line and determined that reductions could be made. After some deliberation it was agreed that there is about a 10 percent growth in this line over the past 3 years which projects to approximately \$80,000. Fred proposed to add \$5,000 to that number to cover the unexpected. The Board agreed on a number of \$85,000 for part time officers. There were no other areas of discussion on the Police budget and once Dave updates the spreadsheet the budget will be finalized next week.

Chief Consentino also stated that they are looking into a warrant article for a generator for the Police Station and will coordinate with the Selectmen.

Elderly Affairs – 4215

Chief Consentino stated that he'd like to see the labor line stay intact since it is very close to what was spent in 2008. He also stated that he might be able to use some donation money to reduce the separation costs by \$2,000. The budget will be tabled till next week.

Fire – 4220

Chief Murphy updated the Board with the cost of the Ice Storm. He stated that the additional costs for his department for the ice storm was approximately \$7,000. The Fire departments labor line runs from December 1 – November 30 so these costs are not being reflected in the 2008 actual number of \$97.923. The Chief is not looking to increase his officer salaries line of \$104,000, just wants to maintain it. The Board agreed.

Steve motioned to final accept the Fire Department budget in the amount of \$275,298/Seconded by Fred/Motion Passes 5-1

Library – 4550

Kay Galloway, Library Trustee and Diane Heer, Librarian came in to answer any questions the Board may have. Diane did inform the Board that the second electric bill had come and it was about \$1,200. She did state they are doing everything to reduce energy usage and is still comfortable with the original estimate which was based on \$1,100 a month. The Board is still waiting on the cleaning contract before they finalize the budget.

Jim stated that the Board is still making good progress and established a goal to complete the balance of the budgets next week, leaving the January 13th meeting to go through the warrant articles. The next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Fred motioned to adjourn the meeting/Seconded by Steve/Unanimous 6-0. Jim adjourned the meeting at 9:09 PM.

Respectively submitted,
kjb