

Town of Atkinson

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Public Hearing

January 16, 2007

Attending: Mark Acciard - Chairman, Jim Blackadar – Vice Chairman, Dave Paquette, Paul Tracy, Brian Boyle, Mari Anne Princiotta (Via Phone) and Paul Sullivan ex officio.

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM. The first order of business is to present the town's operating budget. Mark presented the budget by line item as follows:

Atkinson FY 2007 Budget					
Account			2007	Change	
				Amt.	%
General Government					
Executive	193,359	205,393	12,034	6.22%	
Elections & Registration	190,150	186,192	(3,958)	-2.08%	
Financial Administration	254,107	263,152	9,045	3.56%	
Legal Services	33,500	33,500	0		
Personnel Admin	40,929	47,866	6,937	16.95%	
Planning & Zoning	22,894	35,348	12,454	54.40%	
Buildings	89,128	131,008	41,880	46.99%	
Cemeteries	30,940	30,695	(245)	-0.79%	
Other Insurance	19,675	49,713	30,038	152.67%	
Advertising Regional	5,613	5,578	(35)	-0.62%	
General Government Total	880,295	988,445	108,150	12.29%	
Public Safety					
Police Department	753,540	752,892	(648)	-0.09%	
Elderly Affairs	16,982	17,821	839	4.94%	
Ambulance	23,000	30,000	7,000	30.43%	
Fire Department	322,051	331,369	9,318	2.89%	
Building Inspections	61,510	59,678	(1,832)	-2.98%	
Homeland Security	150	150	0		
Dispatch	31,500	31,500	0		

Public Safety Total	1,208,732	1,223,410	14,678	1.21%
Highways & Streets				
Highway Department	517,023	527,168	10,145	1.96%
Street Lighting	27,000	27,000	0	
Highways & Streets Total	544,023	554,168	10,145	1.86%
Sanitation				
Recycling	39,700	41,171	1,471	3.71%
Solid Waste Disposal	547,393	512,704	(34,689)	-6.34%
Sanitation Total	587,093	553,875	(33,218)	-5.66%
Health & Welfare				
Health Admin	9,162	9,162	0	
Health Agencies	40,321	44,166	3,845	9.54%
Animal Control	21,720	21,720	0	
General Assistance	16,000	16,000	0	
Health & Welfare Total	87,203	91,048	3,845	4.41%
Culture & Recreation				
Recreation	77,495	77,549	54	0.07%
Grounds Maintenance	23,195	27,000	3,805	16.40%
Community Center	28,876	42,667	13,791	47.76%
Library	281,445	302,138	20,693	7.35%
Memorial Day	3,100	3,100	0	
Cable Operations	41,695	48,245	6,550	15.71%
Culture & Recreation Total	455,806	500,699	44,893	9.85%
Conservation				
Conservation	6,645	6,575	(70)	-1.05%
Debt				
Long term debt-Principal	102,142	102,142	0	
Long term debt-Interest	19,203	14,402	(4,801)	-25.00%
Debt Total	121,345	116,544	(4,801)	
Total Operating Budget				
		4,034,765	143,622	3.69%

The next order of business was to present the money warrant articles. The Board will present the warrant articles, discuss with the public and then vote on each warrant article to recommend or not recommend.

2007-04 – Library Bond - \$1,734,000

Members from the library made a brief presentation identifying the changes in the library design from last year and outlining additional programs to be offered. The presented items are as follows:

Old library will remain open during construction,

Library Task Force determined that a 1 story building meets our needs and is more cost effective,

Existing Library space will become a court yard,

New library will have separate meeting rooms/children's library section/seniors-teen center

Reduced size eliminated the expense elevator, walkway, second lobby, fire stairs all of which contribute to the \$500,000 savings,

Estimated tax impact is 16.5 cents per thousand based on a 20 year bond,

New library will have an e-commons room/video conferencing/craft corner/preschool area/story hour will be held in a separate area.

2007-05 – Operating Budget \$4,035,835

2007-06 – Walker Road \$170,186

2007-07 – Wood Drive \$80,360

There were comments from the audience that it appeared the Board and the Road Agent were working to determine the best possible way to present the 2 road articles to pass. After lengthy discussion on the matter it was determined that the warrant article is confusing, does not include all the cost to complete the roads, and there are costs within the Highway Dept.'s operating budget to complete Walker and Wood, but not earmarked for that purpose specifically.

2007-08 – Fire Department Capital Reserve \$50,000

The Fire Department has a 25 year Capital Improvement Plan, under which an ambulance is scheduled for next year and a new truck in 2012, at an estimated cost of \$500,000 which will not be fully funded. Chief Murphy stated that as of 9/30/2006 the balance in the reserve account is \$129,059.59.

2007-09 – Fire Department Ventilator \$25,000

Chief Murphy provided a quote to the Board and stated that the majority of the work was done when the building was built and that they just need to hook into it.

2007-10 – Wheelchair Van Lease \$26,750 - \$6,750 annual payment for 4 years

Chief Consentino stated that he is still getting donations and that the amount of the lease will be finalized at deliberative session. He also stated that he plans on offsetting the annual lease payment with donations, approximately \$3,000 annually.

2007-11 – Recreation Capital Reserve \$25,000

Currently has \$75,000 and there are 2 warrant articles this year to withdraw money from the reserve.

2007-12 – Withdraw from the Recreation Capital Reserve to replace Tyke Towers \$9,000

Town received notification from the insurance carrier to make improvements.

2007-13 - Withdraw from the Recreation Capital Reserve to complete the t-ball field \$9,000

This will finish fencing in the field.

2007-14 – Recreation Revolving Fund

A revised version was provided to the Board last week but was not updated in the Selectmen's packet. It has not been recommended by the Selectmen, and the intent is still unclear. The Board felt that the issuance of a credit card resolved the issue so the coordinator would not have to use her personal credit card to purchase tickets. It was then determined that the tickets being purchased are not included in the operating budget and that they are paid for by the residents who go on the trips. The issue is these tickets need to be purchased in advance, sometimes months in advance, and they want to use this account to hold money received from residents for those tickets. Based on this explanation, the purpose of this warrant article is clearer.

2007-15 – Mosquito Control Expendable Trust Fund \$33,555

To replenish the existing trust.

2007-19 – Communications Study \$15,000

Brian informed the Board that he had signed this warrant article based on recent developments in town surrounding a tower being constructed in the middle of town behind the salt shed. A tower in the middle of town is a permanent thing and there is another tower already in existence on Hog Hill. Sue Killam cautioned Brian that an ethics violation might be developing since he is an abutter (within 200 feet) to the proposed tower sight. It was determined that Brian can speak on the matter, just not as a member of the Board. There were questions from the audience regarding why this study is necessary since one has already been conducted, but the petitioner was not available. The Board also determined that the warrant article needs to determine who will hire the firm, the Selectmen or the Committee. Chief Murphy stated that the best spot for a tower would be on Hog Hill. Chief Consentino also agreed that Hog Hill is the best location, but the existing tower can't handle the required equipment. He also stated that the current owner of the tower on Hog Hill would be willing to replace that tower and put the communications equipment on that tower for free.

Brian, speaking of the Board, added that there might be other options available that this study might reveal.

2007-21 – Senior Rec. Director to Full Time

Already addressed in the operating budget.

2007-22 – Survey \$15,000

Paul S. informed the Board that he'd talked with the petitioner Harold Morse and he believes the actual cost will be between \$5,500 and \$6,000.

The Board not voted to Recommend or Not-Recommend the money related warrant articles as follows:

2007-04 – Library Bond - \$1,734,000

Dave Motioned to Recommend Warrant Article 2007-04/Seconded by Paul T./Unanimous 7-0

2007-05 – Operating Budget \$4,035,835

Brian Motioned to Recommend Warrant Article 2007-05/Seconded by Paul S./Unanimous 7-0

2007-06 – Walker Road \$170,186

Dave Motioned to NOT Recommend Warrant Article 2007-06/Seconded by Brian/Motion Passed 6-1

2007-07 – Wood Drive \$80,360

Dave Motioned to NOT Recommend Warrant Article 2007-07/Seconded by Paul T./Motion Passed 6-1

2007-08 – Fire Department Capital Reserve \$50,000

Dave Motioned to Recommend Warrant Article 2007-08/Seconded by Jim/Unanimous 5-0 (2 abstentions)

2007-09 – Fire Department Ventilator \$25,000

Dave Motioned to Recommend Warrant Article 2007-09/Seconded by Mari Anne/Unanimous 5-0 (2 abstentions)

2007-10 – Wheelchair Van Lease \$26,750 - \$6,750 annual payment for 4 years

Jim Motioned to Recommend Warrant Article 2007-10/Seconded by Paul S./Motion Passed 6-1 (1 abstention)

2007-11 – Recreation Capital Reserve \$25,000

Paul T. Motioned to Recommend Warrant Article 2007-11/Seconded by Brian/Motion Passed 5-2

2007-12 – Withdraw from the Recreation Capital Reserve to replace Tyke Towers \$9,000

Paul S. Motioned to Recommend Warrant Article 2007-12/Seconded by Paul T./Unanimous 7-0

2007-13 - Withdraw from the Recreation Capital Reserve to complete the t-ball field \$9,000

Paul S. Motioned to Recommend Warrant Article 2007-13/Seconded by Jim/Motion Passed 6-1

2007-14 – Recreation Revolving Fund

Brian Motioned to Recommend Warrant Article 2007-14/Seconded by Paul S./Unanimous 7-0

2007-15 – Mosquito Control Expendable Trust Fund \$33,555

Brian Motioned to Recommend Warrant Article 2007-15/Seconded by Paul S./Motion Passed 6-1

2007-19 – Communications Study \$15,000

Dave Motioned to Recommend Warrant Article 2007-19/Seconded by Paul S./Unanimous 5-0 (2 abstentions)

2007-21 – Senior Rec. Director to Full Time

Brian Motioned to Not Recommend Warrant Article 2007-21/Seconded by Jim/Motion Passed 6-1

2007-22 – Survey \$15,000

Brian Motioned to Recommend Warrant Article 2007-22/Seconded by Paul S./Unanimous 7-0

Lastly, the Board reviewed the minutes from the 2 previous meetings.

Dave Motioned accept the minutes from the January 9, 2007 as presented/Seconded by Paul S./Unanimous 6-0 (1 abstention)

Dave Motioned accept the minutes from the January 11, 2007 as presented/Seconded by Brian/Unanimous 6-0 (1 abstention)

The Board will meet on February 3, 2007 at 9:00 before deliberative session.

Dave Motioned to adjourn the meeting/Seconded by Jim/Unanimous 7-0

Mark adjourned the meeting at 10:57 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Kjb