

Call to Order: Chairman Manners called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Other members present: Joe Judd and John Payne.

Review of FY'14 Budget and Proposed Warrant Articles: The discussion began with an initial review the "Budget Overview" sheet. John explained that with approximately \$30,000 less in State Aid and local receipts down an estimated \$25,000; the Board would need to tax residents at the maximum levy limit and allocate an additional \$19,451 from the Stabilization Account in order to balance the budget in its' current state. Board members agreed that they would like to maintain a balance of \$200,000 in the Stabilization account and they did not want to use any of the funds to offset operating expenses. They agreed that at least \$50,000 would be trimmed from the budget.

During the initial review, Assistant Assessor, Bruce Kaepfel was invited in to discuss whether the new growth figure could be increased. Bruce explained that although the number is an estimate, last year's actual new growth figure was approximately \$31,000 therefore; he felt an anticipated \$25,000 was a conservative number.

Next, the Board began looking at the warrant articles funded by the Stabilization Account. In order to maintain a balance of at least \$200,000, the following revisions were made:

- Monies (\$20,000) transferred to the Roof Replacement account was reduced to \$15,000;
- Monies (\$20,000) transferred to the Vehicle Replacement account was reduced to \$15,000;
- Monies (\$34,000) appropriated for the purchase of a used Highway Truck was reduced to \$30,000;
- \$3,500 appropriated to Bridge Street Tree Maintenance and Replacement was reduced to a zero (leaving a combined balance of \$7,020 in the accounts);
- Added an article in the amount of \$11,900 for the purchase of bullet proof vests and other safety related equipment for the police department.

Following review of the warrant articles the Board reviewed the omnibus budget and made the following reductions:

• Tax Title	\$6,000	Reduced to	\$3,200
• Planning Board	\$4,135	Reduced to	\$4,000
• S.F. Village Partnership	\$7,000	Reduced to	\$6,000
• APR Local Match	\$2,500	Reduced to	\$1,250
• Land Preservation	\$2,500	Reduced to	\$1,250
• Interest Expense	\$2,500	Reduced to	\$1,250
• Police Dept. Expense	\$47,400	Reduced to	\$35,500
• Snow & Ice Budget	\$102,046	Reduced to	\$90,146
• Buildings & Grounds	\$14,162	Reduced to	\$12,162
• Cowell Gym Maint.	\$19,000	Reduced to	\$14,500

Reductions to those omnibus accounts with multiple line items listed above were made in the following manner:

While members of the Board expressed support for the third full-time officer, Bob felt that equipment related expenses should be removed from the operating budget for transparency and funded via an article on the warrant. John and Joe agreed. As a result of the discussion, the police operating budget was reduced by \$11,900 and an additional warrant article was generated to purchase safety equipment using Stabilization funds.

Reductions to the Highway Department's Snow and Ice budget included a reduction in personnel costs (from \$24,046 to \$22,146) and; an overall \$10,000 reduction in operating costs.

Joe recommended that the purchase of a new International Highway Truck (estimated cost \$169,000) be postponed for another year. He does not believe that Chapter 90 Program funding will be compromised in the coming years.

A \$2,000 reduction to the Buildings and Grounds account was reflected in the "cleaning" line item.

Reductions to the Cowell Gym Maintenance account were as follows: \$3,500 allocation for janitorial services reduced to zero and; \$1,500 allocation for floor care was reduced to \$500.

Shelburne's Council on Aging representative, Penny Spearance was in attendance to explain why Shelburne's assessment for the Senior Center reflects a 12.7% increase. Penny indicated that the majority of the increase is driven primarily by the town's five-year usage data and a decision to no longer rely on the "Friends" group for funding to offset operating costs. Board members were supportive of the budget request.

Members of the Board agreed that Mohawk's budget assessment which reflects an increase of \$85,156 from last year is unacceptable. They hope that members of the Finance Committee will agree and recommend that tax payers do not vote to support the proposed assessment.

Once all of the revisions to the proposed budget and warrant articles are applied, the Stabilization account will reflect a final balance of \$212,745 (assuming that all articles pass); and the budget is balanced using \$22,535 less than the town's total taxing capacity.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Shelburne Falls Area Business Association RE: 13th Annual Bridge Dinner – The SFABA requests the support of the Town for the 13th Annual Bridge Dinner held on August 18, 2013. The event will require that the Iron Bridge be closed to traffic from 3:00pm to 10:00pm. Joe presented a motion to approve the request as presented. John seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Temporary Constables for the April 30th Election – The Town Clerk has requested that the Select Board appoint two to three individuals to serve as temporary Constables during the April 30th election. Both of the town’s Constables are on the ballot for re-election therefore are unable to serve. Both Joe and John volunteered to serve. Terry Mosher also suggested Laura Allen if a third person was needed.

Planning Board RE: Alternate Members – With the Planning Board Chairman away on work-related business, John wants to research whether alternate members to an elected Board are allowed so that a quorum is easily attained. He will report his findings back to the Board.

Adjournment – John presented a motion to adjourn at 6:15p.m. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Mosher
Town Administrator