

**Camden Budget Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 11, 2010**

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chairman Edward Doudera, John Arnold, Randy Stearns, Frank Carr, James Heard, Bernard Predham, Ken Kohl, John Fitzpatrick, Bob Oxtan, Donald Herrick, Bernice Berger, Rick Bates, Kristin Bifulco, Tom Filip, Kimberly Taliadourus, Anita Zeno, Sidney Lindsley, and Christopher Lowe. Also present Town Manager Roberta Smith, Police Chief Phil Roberts, Lieutenant Randy Gagne, Fire Chief Chris Farley, Public Works Director Rick Seibel, and Select Board Members John French, Karen Grove, Sharon Gilbert, and Anita Brosius-Scott.

ABSENT: Steve Durrell, Jeff Lewis, Sandy Cox, James Ostrowski, Rose Laite, and Parker Laite, Jr.

Chairman Doudera called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Scheduled for discussion this evening were the following proposed budgets: Police Department; Knox County Dispatch; Fire Department; Public Safety Building; Hydrant Assessment; Streetlights; Public Works; Streets & Sidewalks; Parking; and Tree Program.

Each line item was reviewed and questions were raised by committee members, Chief Roberts and Town Manager Smith explained the details. After discussion,

Tom Filip made a motion to recommend the Town Managers' recommendation of \$937,850 for the Police Department budget. Frank Carr seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 17-1-0 vote.

Regarding Police Capital Improvements,

Manager Smith reported that the proposed budget does not include any funding for the scheduled replacement of a police vehicle but she has created a new line for police cruiser which she is recommending to put \$12,000 in this year. The reason for the surplus line is because this will be the second year without funding a cruiser and ideally we purchase a new cruiser every year. At some point we are going to have to buy a new cruiser and this will provide a little bit of a cushion for one.

Her recommendations reflect the Select Board's vote for a net zero impact and a 0% for cost of living increases for all town employees. Some of the salary lines do include increases because some employees will get a step increase in their salaries this year. Employees receive a step increase in their salary lines every three years.

Chairman Doudera stated that is the Select Board's recommendation but the Budget Committee can make any adjustments they feel are warranted.

John Arnold made a motion to hold off on the vote for capital improvement items at the end of the budget. Christopher Lowe seconded.

Discussion, it was the consensus of the members that it would be best to discuss the capital improvement items on same night as the Department Heads are present to give opportunity for discussion without calling them back to a later meeting.

The motion failed on a 6-12-0 vote.

Bob Oxtan made a motion to approve \$26,000 for budget line item 3004-4101 and \$0 for the new

police cruiser line creating a net increase of \$14,000 to the Town Manager's budget. Sidney Lindsley seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 16-2-0 vote.

Regarding Knox County Dispatch,

John Arnold made a motion to approve the Town Manager's recommendation of \$116,602 for Knox County Dispatch services. Tom Filip seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 18-0-0 vote.

Regarding the Fire Department

Chief Farley reviewed line items in his budget and questions were raised by committee members, Chief Farley and Town Manager Smith explained the details. After further discussion,

Manager Smith stated this year's budget does not include setting aside any funds for reserve accounts, therefore there is no money being put in this year's budget for the fire truck reserve.

Bob Oxtan made a motion to approve the Town Manager's recommendation of \$328,005 for the Fire Department. George Wheelwright seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 17-0-1 vote.

Regarding Fire Department Capital Reserves,

Sidney Lindsley made a motion to approve \$20,000 for the Fire Truck Reserve line. Bob Oxtan seconded this motion.

Discussion, Manager Smith stated she is recommending \$0 for the Fire Truck reserve based on the Select Board's recommendation of a zero net tax increase. It's not that she does not agree that we should be putting money in the reserves for big purchases such as a fire truck there is just no room in the budget for anything extra.

The motion failed on a 7-8-3 vote.

James Heard made a motion to approve \$0 for the Fire Truck Reserve line. Anita Zeno seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 8-6-4 vote.

Regarding Public Safety Building,

John Arnold made a motion to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation of \$50,800 for the Public Safety Building line. Tom Filip seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 18-0-0 vote.

Regarding Hydrant Assessment,

Rick Knowlton, representing Aqua America (town's water company) explained this year's assessment is a proposed 23% increase in water rates effective September 2010. The increase is a result of the new storage tank in the system and the new filtration plant now under construction at Mirror Lake.

Randy Stearns made a motion to approve the proposed Hydrant Assessment budget at \$214,000. Tom Filip seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 18-0-0 vote.

Regarding Street Lights,

Randy Stearns made a motion to approve the Manager’s recommendation for \$60,000 for the Streetlights budget. Tom Filip seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 17-0-1 vote.

The Public Works budget reflects the need to cover increased costs of maintenance items, while maintaining the level of service. As a result of increased costs and a level budget, there is not much planned for paving or infrastructure improvement projects. The infrastructure projects we do need to complete this season are the bridge and drainage work on Molyneaux Road and Steamboat Landing.

John Arnold made a motion to approve Town Manager’s recommendation for the proposed Public Works budget at \$802,200. Tom Filip seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 18-0-0 vote.

Regarding Capital Improvements for Public Works,

John Arnold made a motion to approve the Town Manager’s recommendation for \$39,000 for Steamboat Landing drainage and \$71,600 for bridge and drainage work on Molyneaux Road. Kim Taliadourus seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 18-0-0 vote.

Regarding Streets and Sidewalks;

Bob Oxtan made a motion to approve the Manager’s recommendation of \$283,000 for Streets and Sidewalks budget. Michael Coleman seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 18-0-0 vote.

Regarding Parking,

Tom Filip made a motion to approve the Manager’s recommendation of \$2,600 for the Parking budget. Randy Stearns seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 18-0-0 vote.

Regarding the Tree Program; Manager Smith explained that the tree planting line item (\$800) is for the annual shade tree planting program. The tree maintenance line item (\$3,000) is for maintenance on town trees.

John Arnold made a motion to approve \$3,800 for the tree planting and tree maintenance budget. Tom Filip seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 18-0-0 vote.

Manager Smith noted concerning the town’s unclassified assessments to date she knows that Midcoast Solid Waste’s assessment is a decrease of \$15,634 and the Knox County assessment (excluding dispatch) is going to be a decrease of \$14,623 but what she does not know yet and probably won’t until the budget review is completed is what kind of assessment we will get from SAD 28 and the CSD. These decreases could offset the town’s budget and provide us with a little cushion but without knowing the impact of the school budget she cannot say what the outcome will be. She just wanted the budget committee to keep in mind that we may have some room in the budget to work with if the school assessments don’t eat up both of the decreases for the other assessments.

A motion was made and duly seconded to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. The motion passed on a 18-0-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice L. Esancy
Recording Secretary