

**Camden Budget Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 12, 2015**

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Ed Collins, Joseph Russillo, Kate Bates, Jean White, Matthew Orne, Richard Gross, Etienne Perret, Frank Stearns, Anita Brosius-Scott, Richard Stetson, TC Bland, Brett Lerner, Morgan Laidlaw, Deborah Oliver, John Lewis, Sonny Goodwin, Robin McIntosh, Steve Melchiskey, Patty Eddy, Town Manger Patricia Finnigan, Finance Director Carol Sue Greenleaf, Select Board members John French, Martin Cates, Donald White, James Heard, and Recording Secretary Janice Esancy

ABSENT: Dave Nazaroff and Rick Knowlton

Chairman Collins called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Morgan Laidlaw requested if it would be possible to see prior to each budget meeting an up to date of accounting of what they have approved so far.

Anita Brosius Scott requested the following corrections to the minutes:

Page 2 Public Safety Building: Even though her motion was not seconded or approved she would like it to say "reduction in electricity costs not heat costs"

Page 3 Emergency Operations Center: To amend the first line in the paragraph to read: Chief Farley reported they made an agreement with the First Congregational Church for them to host the Town's Emergency Operations Center. They chose the Church because they have a generator already installed in the church's basement.

The committee was in agreement with the corrections.

Scheduled for discussion this evening are the following proposed budgets: Public Works, Harbor & Landing, and General Government.

Regarding Camden Public Library,

Library Director Nikki Maounis and Library Trustee John Fitzgerald presented the library's request for funding. Some of the highlights were:

- Branta Fund is in its last year and to maintain current services they need to raise an additional \$20,000
- Over 80% of Camden's residents have a library card
- The Library took over the Juried Arts Festival this past year and it was a great success
- The Library plan to see an increased level of public donations over the next fiscal year, but in order to keep the services the community expects and to keep the dedicated staff they will need a small increase in support from the town
- In the State of Maine there are only about 5 libraries that received a 5 star rating and Camden is one of them and they continue to strive to keep it that way

There were questions raised about what cuts the library could make. The answer was they do not want to make any cuts further then they already have but if they had to it probably would be the story time. This means eliminating a position. The story time is very popular at the library and it runs 5 days a week.

Kate Bates made a motion to approved \$395,000 for the Camden Public Library budget. Anita Brosius-Scott seconded this motion. The motion carries on a 11-5 vote.

Regarding Harbor & Landing,

The Harbor budget is completely funded by harbor fees (the cost of harbor licenses, windjammer leases, daysailer licenses, mooring and docking fees). Budget increases are due to wages, benefits and insurance and the greater use of the pumpout boat. This spring the town will install a fisherman's hoist at the Public Landing and this fall replace approximately 40 pilings that are deteriorating and need to be replaced. Both of these projects are made possible thanks to a matching State grant from the Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP).

Morgan Laidlaw made a motion to approve \$180,401 for the Harbor and Public Landing budget. Patty Eddy seconded this motion. The motion carries.

Capital Improvements for Harbor and Landing

Replacement of the Finger Float System: The finger float system has been in service for about 20 years and needs to be replaced. This project would be financed. The cost estimate for engineering, design and construction is approximately \$130,000.

John Lewis made a motion to approve \$2,100 for line 3002-4466 Debt Service Interest for the bond payment for the finger float system. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion carries.

John Lewis made a motion to approve \$15,000 for line 3001-4466 Debt Service Principal for the bond payment for the finger float system. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion carries.

Piling Replacement: The pilings along the face of the public landing are deteriorating and need to be replaced. The proposed funding is to pay for the Town's share of the matching share of the grant.

John Lewis made a motion to approve \$39,000 for the line 3004-4462 Piling replacement. Kate Bates seconded this motion and the motion carries.

Capital Reserves for Harbor and Landing:

John Lewis made a motion to approve \$20,000 for the Harbor Projects Reserve. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion carries.

Steve Melchiskey made a motion to approve \$20,000 for line 3003-4459 for Public Landing Reserve. Anita Brosius-Scott seconded this motion.

Sonny Goodwin made an amended motion to approve \$0 for the line 3003-4459 Public Landing Reserve. Brett Lerner seconded this motion and the motion carries.

Chairman Collins asked for a vote on the original motion which is now \$0 for line 3003-4459 for the Public Landing Reserve. The motion carries.

Regarding Street Lights,

John Lewis made a motion to approve \$63,000 for the Street Lights budget. Kate Bates seconded this motion. The motion carries.

Regarding Public Works,

Some of the line items were reviewed and questions were raised by committee members, Public Works Director Seibel and Town Manager Finnigan explained the details. The biggest increase in the department is a request to fund another full time Truck Driver/Maintenance position. After discussion,

Anita Brosius-Scott made a motion to reduce the Fuel Depot line by \$1,000 and approve \$979,058 for the Public Works Department budget. The motion was not seconded so the motion fails on a lack of a second.

John Lewis made a motion to recommend the Town Manager's recommendation of \$980,058 for the Public Works Department. Frank Stearns seconded this motion. The motion passed.

Brett Lerner made an amended motion to pull the funds for the vacant Development Director position and use those funds for the potential new Public Works employee position. Frank Stearns seconded this motion.

Chairman Collins stated if the committee wants to do this the appropriate time to do this would be when they discuss the Administration budget which is where the funds are for the Development Director.

The vote was called for the original motion to fund \$980,058 for the Public Works budget. The motion carries.

Regarding Streets and Sidewalks,

John Lewis made a motion to approve \$433,500 for the Streets and Sidewalks budget. Frank Stearns seconded this motion. The motion carries.

Etienne Perret stated he didn't know who to make this happen but he would like to see town's sidewalks more ADA compliant by setting any new poles outside the sidewalk.

Anita Brosius-Scott told Etienne this is something that CR Pathways is working on diligently.

Anita Brosius Scott made a motion to add \$2,000 to the budget for more recycling bins. The motion did not receive a second so therefore did not carry.

Regarding Parking Lots,

John Lewis made a motion to approve \$6,600 for Parking Lots. Frank Stearns seconded this motion.

Anita Brosius-Scott amended the motion to reduce to \$6,000 based on historical actuals. The amended motion did not receive a second therefore the motion did not carry.

Chairman Collins asked for a vote on the original motion of \$6,600 for Parking Lots. The motion carried.

Regarding Tree Maintenance and Street Trees,

John Lewis made a motion to approve \$27,000 for Tree Maintenance and Tree Program. Anita Brosius-Scott seconded this motion. The motion carries.

Regarding Capital Improvements for Public Works,

Public Works Director Rick Seibel explained the needs for Public Works.

Capital Equipment

They are looking to purchase a new four wheel drive plow/dump truck to be used for the rural areas in town. The estimated cost would be \$200,000.

John Lewis made a motion to approve \$23,500 for Debt Service Principal and \$1,820 for Debt Service Interest bond payment for the new truck. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion carries.

Capital Improvement Projects

Storm drain improvements: The storm drain that runs from Mechanic Street to the Megunticook River. The storm drain is deteriorating and needs replacement. The estimated cost for this is \$40,000.

John Lewis made a motion to approve \$40,000 for line 3004-4264 for the storm drain improvements. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion carries.

Leaf & debris Vacuum: The street sweeper they have is a mechanical sweeper rather than a vacuum and is not efficient or effective in cleaning up leaves. The estimated cost for the leaf vac is \$11,500.

John Lewis made a motion to approve \$11,500 for line 3004-4265 the leaf and debris vacuum. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion carries.

Mower Head: This request is to replace the worn out flail mower head that is used on the trackless mower which is used for roadside mowing. The estimated cost is \$9,200.

Anita Brosius-Scott made a motion to approve \$9,200 for line 3004-4266 for the mower head. John Lewis seconded this motion. The motion passed carries.

Fuel Depot: To meet state requirements the fuel depot needs several upgrades including a monitoring system for the underground piping, and over-fill alarm system, and replacement of the Gasboy fleet and fuel management system. The estimated cost for the upgrades is \$28,000.

Frank Stearns made a motion to approve \$28,000 for line 3004-4267 for the fuel depot upgrades. John Lewis seconded this motion. The motion carries.

Public Works Generator: The public works facility does not currently have a generator. If they need to repair vehicles and equipment they would not have the electricity necessary to operate many tools and equipment including the gas pumps if there should be a huge power outage. If the Public Safety gets a new generator or access to auxiliary power the Public Safety Generator could be transferred to the Public Works Garage.

John Lewis made a motion to table line 3004-4268 for the Public Works generator. Frank Stearns

seconded this motion. The motion carries.

Anita Brosius-Scott made a motion to create a new reserve fund in the amount of \$5,000 for the purpose of relocating poles out of the right of way within the town sidewalks. Etienne Perret seconded this motion. The motion carries.

Capital Reserves:

PW Streets reserve is used for funding for street, sidewalk and pathway construction and improvements. This includes the Town's share of state and federal grants.

John Lewis made a motion to approve \$10,000 for the PW Streets Reserve Account. Anita Brosius-Scott seconded this motion. The motion carries.

Steve Melchiskey made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm. John Lewis seconded this motion. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice L. Esancy
Recording Secretary