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SPECIAL CAMDEN SELECT BOARD MEETING
Minutes of Meeting
April 26, 2011

Present: Chairperson Karen Grove, Vice Chairperson Deborah Dodge, John R. French, Jr., Morgan Laidlaw, Martin Cates, and Town Manager Roberta Smith.

Contents

1. Final recommendation on the proposed FY12 Town Budget.

Minutes of Meeting

Chairperson Grove called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

REVENUES:

Manager Smith reported there is no change from the Budget Committee recommendation except for the fact that the bond and note proceeds for the Fire Truck proposal have been withdrawn from the June budget. The total estimated revenues that she recommended and confirmed by the Budget committee is \$1,989,195. This is a little bit higher than the current year but it is still lower than historical levels because we have taken such a reduction in vehicle excise tax and state revenues.

Deborah Dodge made a motion to confirm the revenues for the 2011-12 fiscal year for \$1,989,195. Martin Cates seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

EXPENDITURES:

1. **General Government: John French made a motion to approve the budget of \$1,423,300. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0.**
2. **Public Safety: Morgan Laidlaw made a motion to approve the budget of \$1,705,829. Martin Cates seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0.**
3. **Highways, Streets & Bridges: Board member French made a motion to take the \$5,000 that was taken from the Public Works budget and put into the Library be put back in the Public Works budget for a total Public Works budget of \$828,400. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion.**

Board member Dodge stated she is not in favor of taking it back away from the library. She agrees it should not have been taken from Public Works but she would like to see the \$5,000 taken from somewhere else.

The library has done an enormous job over the last couple years to bring their expenses down by reducing positions. They took \$40,000 out of the budget over the last year in order to be fiscally responsible recognizing that revenues were down. The library is a huge cultural anchor for this community and brings people into town. Our library has more people attending programs than the Portland Library. Last year we had 20,000 people

50 come to programs at the library. This library is a huge draw and she is uncomfortable
51 taking this money away from the library and putting it in Public Works.

52
53 Chairperson Grove asked to go back to the Public Works discussion and discuss Library
54 when their budget comes up.

55
56 Martin Cates stated he agrees about not taking from library but he is concerned where we
57 find the \$5,000 to put back in the budget.

58
59 Karen Grove stated she agrees with John French that we should not be stripping anything
60 from the highway department because it is not fiscally wise. We cannot continue to keep
61 doing this to our infrastructure.

62
63 Board member French stated he heard from some of the library people that they were
64 uncomfortable with this being taken from the highway budget for theirs because Public
65 Works has provided tremendous amounts of services for the library over the years and a lot
66 of times they are not charged for it.

67
68 **The Board voted on the motion on the floor (\$828,400 for Public Works budget). The**
69 **motion passed on a 4-1-0 vote. (Dodge opposed).**

70
71 **Highways, Streets & Bridges: John French made a motion to approve a budget of**
72 **\$1,169,200. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 4-1-0**
73 **vote (Dodge opposed)**

74
75 **4. Health & Welfare: Deborah Dodge made a motion to approve the budget of \$34,395.**
76 **John French seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.**

77
78 **5. Leisure Services: Deb Dodge continued her comments regarding the library. If you go on**
79 **the State of Maine Library website you can view statistics for all libraries in Maine and you**
80 **will see that our library is in several top ten categories such as circulation and program**
81 **attendance. She asked the library about circulation costs and she was told the circulation**
82 **for Camden's Library is less than \$1.50 per user which is nowhere near the most expensive**
83 **cost for circulation of libraries in the State of Maine. We have an incredible library and they**
84 **have worked really hard to keep their costs down and we should find the \$5,000 to take**
85 **their budget back up to \$355,000. She inquired whether or not the \$5,000 could be cut**
86 **from the Information Technology line (hardware & software for computers).**

87
88 Board member French stated the library budget is already a \$10,000 increase from last year
89 and the town supports the library in other ways. We are paying for a \$350,000 bond for the
90 library park; Parks & Recreation does their mowing at reduced rate, plus other services that
91 are done through Police, Fire and Public Works.

92
93 Board member Dodge does not disagree that we support the library but the value that we
94 get out of every tax dollar spent at that library is amazing considering what a draw it is for
95 the community.

96

97 Board member French stated this is a regional library; do the other towns contribute to the
98 library?
99

100 Board member Dodge replied that non-residents that use the library do buy a library card
101 so they already contribute to the library and the library does have private donors that are
102 non-residents of Camden.
103

104 Board member Grove stated the library has already received an increase of \$10,000 over
105 the Town Manager's recommendation and she does not feel they need another \$5,000.
106

107 **Deborah Dodge made a motion to approve a motion of \$829,532 for Leisure Services**
108 **as recommended by Budget Committee. Martin Cates seconded this motion.**
109

110 Board member Grove stated a few years ago the Library came forward with a \$10,000
111 increase for new computers. At that time she asked if the town was going to see this
112 \$10,000 embedded in the budget next year and they told her no. The next year they came
113 back there was the \$10,000 and when she asked why and it was for a new fiber optic line.
114 The third year they came back and needed a new server. That \$10,000 still has not gone
115 away but now it's tucked in there so we don't see it. She is not comfortable with this, we
116 have so many things that have gone unfunded such as our infrasture and this is called
117 Leisure Services not Essential Services.
118

119 Board member Dodge stated four or five years there were probably a lot of people who
120 didn't expect their investment income to go down, didn't anticipate a drop in the market,
121 didn't anticipate increased cost of in fuel, and didn't think healthcare cost would go up so
122 high so holding someone to something they said five years ago about not needing \$10,000
123 to her is not realistic.
124

125 **John French made a motion to amend the motion on the floor to \$350,000 which is**
126 **the Manager's request. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The vote passed on a**
127 **3-2-0. (Dodge and Cates opposed)**
128

129 **The figure on the original motion has been reduced to \$824,532 as a result of the**
130 **amended motion which was passed.**
131

132 **Chairperson Grove asked for a vote on the original motion. The motion passed on a**
133 **3-2-0 vote.**
134

- 135 6. **Cemeteries: Deborah Dodge made a motion to approval a total budget of \$90,000.**
136 **John French seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.**
137

- 138 7. **Debt/Capital/Contingency:**
139

140 Manager Smith reported on the following changes made by the Budget Committee:
141

142 The bond question for the new Fire Truck was postponed until November. The Fire Chief
143 and the Town Manager both felt that a November bond issue vote on the fire truck would
144 not hinder the planned replacement schedule for the Fire Department. There would be

145 ample time to get firm bids on a new truck and still place the order for the truck in FY12;
146 bond payments would begin in FY13 as originally planned. Since the November vote would
147 be a money issue, the Budget Committee would be asked to review the bid price once bids
148 are opened and make a recommendation on funding.
149

150 The funds for the Molyneaux Road bridge wing walls repair and the Public Landing
151 restroom roof total of \$43,000 were postponed and moved into the Laite Beach
152 Improvements line. The Budget Committee felt because of the safety issues regarding the
153 need for drainage, shoreline access and stabilization improvements needed it was a higher
154 priority than the Public Landing restroom and the Molyneaux Bridge repair. The total
155 needed to do Laite Beach is \$165,500 but the most immediate need is more in the
156 neighborhood of \$125,000 so they are working on donations and grant money to get it
157 done. This really needs to get done and it is unfortunate that the budget will not allow us to
158 fund the whole thing.
159

160 Another option would be to finance the whole project and use the \$43,000 for a down
161 payment and borrow the remainder of the money from the town's surplus. The Board
162 discussed options for financing the project.
163

164 After discussion,
165

166 **Deborah Dodge made a motion to finance up to \$165,000 for the Laite Beach**
167 **improvements for July 1st and for budget purposes put \$30,000 in Debt Service for**
168 **payments on the Laite Beach project. John French seconded this motion. The motion**
169 **passed on a 5-0-0 vote.**
170

171 **John French a made a motion to take the \$43,000 out of the Laite Beach**
172 **improvements line and put \$13,000 back into the Public Landing Restroom roof**
173 **replacement for a total of \$178,000 in the Capital Improvement Program line. Martin**
174 **Cates seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 5-0-0 vote.**
175

176 **Deborah Dodge made a motion to approve a total budget of \$831,901 for the**
177 **Debt/Capital/Contingency budget. John French seconded this motion. The motion**
178 **passed on a 5-0-0 vote.**
179

180 **Deborah Dodge made a motion to add \$5,000 Leisure Services specifically the**
181 **Camden Public Library line and ask the Town to go over the LD1 spending limitation**
182 **by \$4,152. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 4-1-0 vote.**
183 **(Grove opposed)**
184

185 The Board went back and revoted on the total for the Leisure Services because earlier
186 tonight they voted to not fund the extra \$5,000 for the library.
187

188 **John French made a motion to approve a total budget of \$829,532 for Leisure**
189 **Services. Martin Cates seconded this motion. The motion passed on a 4-1-0 vote.**
190 **(Grove opposed)**
191

