



Town of Camden
Minutes of the Select Board Meeting
April 10, 2012
6:00pm

PRESENT: Chairperson Martin Cates, Vice Chairperson Morgan Laidlaw, John French, Jr., James Heard, Donald White, and Town Manager Finnigan. Also present were members of the press and public.

Contents

Finalization of the Select Board's recommendation on the proposed FY13 Town Budget.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Cates called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Budget Discussion

The Chair asked the Town Manager to make some introductory comments on the budget.

Town Manager Pat Finnigan said that the Committee had started the budget process trying to stay as close to a zero increase as possible, while still anticipating projected increases in costs due to the changing economy. She said that in the proposed budget, expenditures were up .036% which was within the LDI guidelines of the State.

The Town Manager noted that there was one deviation in the proposed budget from the original recommendations, and that had been a change in the Capital Reserve Account line. Originally she had recommended that \$25,000 be set aside to pay for anticipated projects as part of the Downtown Master Plan. This amount had been eliminated from the proposed budget. It was noted that since the Downtown Master Plan had not been accepted yet, some members of the Budget Committee had felt that this was not the right time to allocate money for it.

There was some discussion on this matter. Morgan Laidlaw made the point that since the TIF funds are held in a separate account, including the \$25,000 for anticipated downtown projects would not affect the tax rate. He noted that including this amount in the budget would simply allow for the funds to be available if the Downtown Master Plan is approved.

John French noted that having some money available from the Town to support the Downtown Master Plan could potentially help the Town qualify for a matching grant where some funds would need to be put down in order to secure the remainder of the grant. The Board discussed the fact that part of the issue had to do with timing, and that at the presentation of the Downtown Master Plan on April 17th there would be a chance for public comment.

Donald White made a motion to add \$25,000 in the Capital Reserve Account from revenues that

have been collected in the Downtown Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District. This reserve fund will be used to implement recommendations contained in the Downtown Master Plan, provided they are approved by the Select Board, and which are for purposes contained in the Camden Downtown TIF, as approved at a Special Town Meeting on February 23, 2010. John French seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

3. Line-By-Line Vote on Expenditures

a. General Government

John French made a motion to approve the proposed budget amount of \$664,535 as amended for Admin/Fin/Codes/Assessing. Morgan Laidlaw seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

John French made a motion that the Professional Services budget line be approved at the Town Manager's requested amount of \$51,000. James Heard seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

John French made a motion that the Planning & Development budget line be approved at the Town Manager's requested amount of \$242,600. Donald White seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

John French made a motion that the Information Technology budget line be approved at the Town Manager's requested amount of \$56,000. James Heard seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

John French made a motion that the Insurances budget line be approved at the Town Manager's requested amount of \$152,500. James Heard seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

John French made a motion that the Opera House Town Offices budget line be approved at the Town Manager's requested amount of \$86,900. Donald White seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

John French made a motion that the Opera House - Auditorium budget line be approved at the Town Manager's requested amount of \$207,600. Donald White seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

John French made a motion that the total General Government budget line be approved at the Town Manager's requested amount of \$1,461,135. Donald White seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

The Board briefly discussed gas prices as they related to the budget. The size of the police department budget was also discussed.

b. Public Safety

John French made a motion that the Public Safety budget line be approved at the Town

Manager's requested amount of \$1,748,476. Donald White seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

c. **Highways, Streets and Bridges**

John French made a motion that the Highways, Streets and Bridges budget line be approved at the Town Manager's requested amount of \$1,238,100. James Heard seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

d. **Health & Welfare**

John French made a motion that the Health & Welfare budget line be approved at the Town Manager's requested amount of \$51,467. James Heard seconded the motion.

There was some discussion among the Board as to the amount for Health & Welfare as the Budget Committee had made a change in this line.

John French amended his motion to read that the Health & Welfare budget line be approved at the Budget Committee's recommended amount of \$50,907. Donald White seconded the amended motion. It was approved unanimously.

e. **Leisure Services**

John French made a motion that the Leisure Services budget line be approved at the Town Manager's requested amount of \$866,700. Donald White seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

f. **Cemeteries**

John French made a motion that the budget line for Cemeteries be approved at the Town Manager's requested amount of \$90,000. James Heard seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

g. **Debt/Capital/Contingency**

John French made a motion that the Debt/Capital/Contingency budget line be approved at the Town Manager's requested amount of \$769,773. Morgan Laidlaw seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

MUNICIPAL TOTAL

John French made a motion to approve the total Municipal Budget amount of \$6,225,091 as amended. Donald White seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

The Town Manager noted that the difference between her original recommendation for the Health and Welfare line and the Budget Committee's recommendation for that line was due to the fact that an organization which had requested \$1,000 found that they had another source for funding, so the Committee had taken \$1,000 out of Health and Welfare.

Donald White thanked the staff, Town Manager Finnigan, and all the members of the Budget Committee for their hard work in getting through this part of the budget process. He said it was his first time through and he felt it went very smoothly. Other Select Board members also thanked everyone for their help.

John French asked Fire Chief Chris Farley to update the Board with some details on the new fire truck. Chief Farley said that the truck is being assembled at a factory in Appleton, Wisconsin. He told the Board that he will travel to the factory for a pre-construction conference during the month of July, and that assembly will begin in October. The truck should be complete by the end of November or early December, he said. James Heard suggested some ways that citizens could be brought into the process once the truck arrives so they could see the results of their investment. Chief Farley said that a public event is something the department had discussed, and added that he felt that the spring would be an appropriate time for a community event around the truck.

4. **Adjourn**

Donald White made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Morgan Laidlaw seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Board adjourned at 6:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Brace
Recording Secretary