TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Budget Work Session Minutes

November 1, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Paul Goundrey, David Smith

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Bob Palifka, Kelley Monahan, Lawrence Hibbard, Paul Carreiro, Ruth Hook

OTHERS PRESENT: Sheri Clifford

**Call to Order**

The budget work session was called to order at 5:30 PM

2018 Budget:

Goundrey explained how he and Smith had reviewed what had been received for the 2018 budget requests. They decided not to discuss wages until all board members were present and due to the October 29th storm the budget has not been completed as planned.

Palifka asked if other issues could be discussed, such as where things stood with hiring a Police Chief. Adams explained the job is being advertised and the town is contracting with the State Police to patrol until a chief is hired. He pointed out that the highway department crew was also depleted and with the two storm events were not able to complete planned projects.

Palifka asked of any large expenditures on highway trucks. Adams said there were a few, but not high ticket items. However, it was discovered that the one-ton will not pass inspection next year without extensive rust work.

Hook questioned the amount of money going into fire department equipment, and felt the board should be sure not to over spend on equipment that may or may not be needed.

Monahan pointed out the Cemetery Commission needs to manage their budget better and budget for the amount of time required to complete necessary work. Adams will look into this as it is flexible when the job begins and ends due to weather.

Adams explained the Board will be drafting a warrant article to change the capital reserve fund for bridges and roads to an expendable trust to deal with emergency situations such as these past two storms. Monahan felt the public should be well aware of the condition of our bridges and road after these events.

Carreiro asked how the committee could assist the Board. Smith stated the committee could support the warrant article to change the bridges and roads fund to an expendable trust.

The Board will meet on Tuesday, November 7th, at 5:30 PM in a work session to complete the 2018 budget worksheet and meet with the Budget Advisory Committee on November 15th at 5:30 PM.

Carreiro suggested that the focus of the meeting be on the departments with the largest budgets, Highway Department and Fire Department, and work together to come to a mutual agreement with these budget requests.

Tax Rate Review:

The Board reviewed the tax rate breakdown from the NH Department of Revenue.

A motion was made to approve the total tax rate of $27.10. Municipal tax rate $4.81, County tax rate $1.87, Local Education tax rate $18.07 and State Education tax rate $2.35. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Roads Update:

* Town Road #100 – material around the two temporary culverts was washed away and should be passable by the end of the day.
* Quinttown Road – brook jumped the bank in two places washing out the road again with about eight hundred feet of damage.
* Quinttown Bridge – further damaged by the event and not passable at this time, I-beams are exposed and driving course is gone.
* Mousley Brook Culvert – seventy-five feet washed out over the culvert and into the road and ditch line damage as well which will be a major expense.
* Creamery Road Bridge – again damaged by the event with the abutment further undermined to the point contractors will not drive over the bridge and deemed impassable
* Piermont Heights Road – culvert overflowed, minor damage
* Prettyman Road – is okay, but was underwater for a time

Police Chief Search:

The Board discussed contracting with another town for police services. Clifford will contact Primex for more information and recommendations.

 **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,