TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Budget Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Paul Goundrey, David Smith

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENT: Bob Palifka, Kelley Monahan, Lawrence Hibbard, Paul Carreiro, Tom Thomson, Ruth Hook, Anne Duncan Cooley

OTHERS PRESENT: Cicely Richardson, Chief Straight, Kevin Follensbee, Tim Hebb, Sandra Marsh, David Cole, Roger Hadlock, Justin Adams, Michael Gilbert, Robert Hodge, Jordon Sutherlin, Sheri Clifford

**Call Meeting to Order**

The budget meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM

Adams explained that the meeting would cover three areas: 1. Highway budget and warrant articles; 2. Fire Department budget and warrant articles; and 3. Proposal of a warrant article to increase Police Chief salary.

1. **Highway Department**

Warrant article to replace the one-ton with a one and one-half ton truck with snow plow blade and sander; 7-year or 100,000-mile warranty not to exceed $90,000. Present trade in value of $17,000 or for cash $13,500.

Discussion on warranty, when the vehicle was taken possession of, mileage, expenses for present one-ton, reported to be 48,325, possible leasing, possible purchase of a used vehicle, purchasing a stainless-steel body and be able to keep the vehicle longer. A suggestion was made to utilize the expendable capital reserve fund (CRF) for heavy equipment repair to fix the present truck and use it for another year or more.

Resolved: The Board will gather pricing information for: one-ton versus one and one-half ton; stainless-steel body versus not stainless-steel and leasing information.

Warrant article to replace Truck #3 changing to auto transmission and four-wheel drive, snow plow, hydraulics, conveyor forward dump body, 7-year warranty or 150,000 miles not to exceed $225,000. Present trade in value is $25,000.

Discussion on the amount of maintenance required for truck #3 during the year, how much rust is on the truck, possibly converting the older fire rescue truck to a plow truck – Hebb explained that truck was not set up for plowing and would not climb a hill in bad weather. Again suggested to use the heavy equipment repair CRF for major repairs and continue to use the truck.

Resolved: The Board will gather pricing on a stainless-steel body.

Highway Budget:

Adams pointed out the budget line item for Equipment Rental was reduced from $11,500 to $1,000 and a new line item was added, Contracted Services, for $10,500 to cover road-side mowing and screening sand. The separate proposed warrant article for mowing $6,500 was withdrawn. There was discussion of the pricing for road-side mowing and the method.

Justin A. wanted it stated for the record how much sand was screed for this year. Goundrey stated 1,759 yards.

Highway Uniforms: It was discovered there is a contract with Unifirst to supply uniforms until 2021. It was questioned if the Road Agent had authority to enter into such a contract. The Board will research this contract further with the Town Attorney.

1. **Fire Department**

Warrant article to replace the Rescue Truck to a one and one-half ton truck at a cost not to exceed $202,000. Chief Straight explained this would be a down-size compared to the current rescue truck and be able to assist more efficiently with the ever increasing medical calls and would also carry more equipment with reduced maintenance costs and a much safer vehicle. Current trade in value is $60,000.

Discussion on if the current body could be used and only purchase a cab and chasse, the long term savings, the need/or not for a cascade system to refill air packs, current maintenance costs (a new radiator is needed), possibility of relying more on mutual aid.

The maneuverability was questioned because the wheel base is longer.

Resolve: Consider using the new CRF for fire truck major repairs/maintenance expendable.

Warrant article to purchase the present highway department one-ton truck and convert it to a fire rescue truck.

Chief Straight stated his request to rescind this request.

Fire Department Budget:

Hook questioned maintaining four vehicles for the fire department when it is a three vehicle department. Smith would like to see the overall fire department budget cut in half. It was asked if it was proper for the fire department to be handling medical calls. Chief Straight explained Upper Valley Ambulance is not always available and the department has one paramedic on staff with another finishing up certification.

1. **Warrant article to propose an increase in Police Chief salary**

Adams stated the Board would like to propose a warrant article to increase the salary for a police chief as Orford does not offer a competitive wage and it is effecting their ability to hire a qualified candidate. The Board would like the public to voice their opinion and vote on what they would like in town. This increase would include salary as well as benefits.

Monahan liked the idea of flexibility for this position. Palifka questioned if this needed to be a separate warrant article, just explain the increase in the budget prior to voting. Thomson felt an increase would attract a semi-retired professional that would not require health insurance. Carreiro appreciated the Board wanting to get feedback from the residents through a warrant article.

The next budget meeting will be Wednesday, December 20th at 5:30 PM. Adams will have a draft of potential warrant articles available for review.

**Adjourn**

The budget meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,