

**2009-2010 BUDGET MEETING MINUTES  
OF  
27 MARCH 2009**

Present: Selectmen David Nichols, Nicole Viele, Bill Curtis & Bob Fairfield.  
Selectman Phil DiVece had told the Selectmen yesterday evening that he did not want to work on the budgets Friday night and would not be attending tonight's meeting.  
Budget Committee: Steve Mehrl & Judy Colby.  
Town Manager, Arthur Faucher.

**MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**

Budget Presented by Airport Manager, Ervin Deck.

**Personnel**

The full-time \$1000 and part-time \$2000 budget items were combined into the part-time account for the sum of \$4000. This will allow the airport manager flexibility to pay for summer grass mowing and winter snow removal. The existing amounts have proven to be too restrictive for the actual amounts needed for the work.

Selectman Curtis asked who uses the overtime account. Erv replied that money covers the overtime for the Highway Department employees during snow removal.

Erv informed the Selectmen that the Airport Committee is working on a Snow Plan. They would like to see the airport's snow removal needs done within 24 hours. The Committee is seriously looking at contracting the service out instead of having it done by the Highway Department.

The work done this year showed much inexperience and was at times poorly done. The snow blower was not used enough; the snow berms were too close to the runway; snow banks needed to be spread out for the safety operations of an aircraft; and the runway lights were too often left covered with snow.

The Committee would much prefer contracting the service. This would put less of a burden on the Highway Department. Since the airport has its own fuel, machinery and equipment all it needs is an operator. The Airport Committee would look to secure the services of a license operator who can care only for the airport's needs.

**Utilities**

Electricity dropped from \$7000 to \$3500. Much of the needed airport lighting has been replaced. Material was already on hand. Erv thought about removing the pilots lounge phone due to people having cell phones but the FAA requires there be one available. So the amount of \$171 went up to \$240 for the year. The phone is a vonage connected to the internet with no international calls.

## **Services**

The annual state license fee and Tier 2 fee is \$500 for this year. One of these reports is a government report on fuel quantity on site.

Engineering services dropped from \$4000 to \$2500. The Committee has not forgotten the Master Plan engineering requirement but working slowly toward the least possible needs of one for now.

Different areas of brush cutting will again be required this year. The sum of \$5000 will take care of haying and the shrub removal. The ruts near the wind sock area were taken care of as required last summer.

## **Insurance**

Maine Municipal Association (MMA) will again provide coverage. Of interest, the policy is from AIG.

## **Supplies/Equipment**

Selectmen suggested Erv put money into the postage line for \$100. This line was zero. Gasoline dropped slightly from \$100 to \$75 for lawn mowing. Diesel went from \$1000 to \$1200 for machinery & equipment operations. Erv plans on using the General Supplies line monies this year for replacing runway lights, four transformers and making the downstairs restroom meet ADA standards.

Mower lease: A savings of \$1,250.84 would be had if the lawn mower would be paid by June 2009. It was agreed to do so. This year's budget may be capable of paying the balance. Erv will determine this closer to this year's end.

## **Repairs & Maintenance**

The line was increased from \$2000 to \$5000 to purchase materials to repair the aircraft maintenance building roof. The Airport Committee will organize volunteers to help with this summer work.

Equipment and Other Equipment lines were combined to Equipment only. The sum is \$3000 vs. \$5500 for the new fiscal year. The Equipment line covers such items as the snow removal equipment; the Deere lawn mower; the need for batteries and any items necessary to operate the vehicles

## **Staff**

Dues and fees dropped from \$250 to \$125. The FBO has picked up some of this expense. Training and education was reduced from \$500 to \$250. Erv has been attending these events at no cost to the town.

## **Miscellaneous**

Grant Match: This is the Snow Removal Equipment (SRE) building. The town match is 2.5% on the \$157,100 grant award. Our share is \$4000.

## **New Airport Revenues**

Erv preferred to add the word “Leases” to Rentals. He felt this was more of an accurate way of explaining this line. Two new hangers will be built this year. One of them will be leased by the FBO. A land lease is also applicable with David Hewitt in the “fence agreement.” This agreement is being reviewed by the FAA.

Erv indicated that the Airport Committee will implement a “long-term auto parking” fee this year. This will bring in \$500. In all, the airport manager anticipates a total of \$55,000 will be derived as revenue.

## **WISCASSET PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Budget presented by Susan Blagden.

Selectman Nichols asked why the Payroll had increased from \$88,094 to \$93,380. This was due to a 4% cost-of-living adjustment for employees. Some of the Selectmen shared that due to the state of economic affairs in the state and the nation this was not a suitable time for asking such a request. Mrs. Blagden understood.

The Endowment income for this year is \$30,000 vs. \$50,000 last year. The Trustees cut by 10% and/or flat funded operations for the past three years.

The Library has 2,500 active members. Interestingly, many people are using the internet at the Library to find work. They have stopped paying for their home use. And more people are renting movies rather than paying for them.

Susan informed the Selectmen that the roof had leaked unexpectedly this winter. An ice dam that formed over the Reference section caused leaking enough for the ceilings to drown down and it occasionally still leaks.

Fund raising continues with the Shaw's receipts. These monies purchased new carpet in the entranceway. The staff continues to look for grants to help offset some of this maintenance. Friends of the Library are holding a silent auction and there is an ongoing donation of books for sales.

Selectman Nichols asked if any of the other communities were stopping their contributions. Susan said that Westport Island was okay so far. She is to attend their budget meeting soon. The Town of Edgecomb refused to put the request on the warrant this year. However, Susan said this had drawn attention to a petition to place an article on the warrant to fund their share. The Town of Alna is projected to put in the same amount as last year.

The Board of Selectmen concluded that it would be best to maintain the same amount this year as last year which is \$85,000. Susan said this was understandable and was pleased that the Selectmen would recommend this amount for the new fiscal year.

### **Transfer Station**

#### **Salaries**

Ron Lear wanted to address the Selectmen on the Salaries section of the budget. The existing \$59,571 budgeted includes Les Wentworth and hiring a new Class I/A Utility Driver/Laborer. Maurice Pickering a part-time Class I/A Utility Driver/Laborer at the Transfer Station moves to the Highway Department on a full-time basis Monday thru Friday.

Ron pointed out that his former Highway Department position was Class II/B Utility Driver/Laborer Monday thru Friday which has been filled by Bill Thayer. The Class I/A Utility Driver/Laborer (Tuesday thru Saturday) position is open.

This position is a point that will need to be talk about again. Selectmen to also discuss the matter with the Budget Committee at a future joint meeting.