

Town of Farmington
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Sylvia Arcouette, Chairman
Jodi Connolly, Vice Chairman
Neil Johnson, Selectmen's Rep.
Tim Brown
Stephen Henry
Linda McElhinney, Alt. School Board Rep.
Michelle Elbert
Jason Lauze

Committee Members Absent:

Angie Cardinal, School Board Rep.
Heidi Mitchell
Sam Cataldo

Others Present:

Arthur Capello, Town Administrator
Tami LaRock, Library Director

1). Call to Order:

Chairman Arcouette called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2). Pledge of Allegiance:

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). Presentation of Town Budget:

Mr. Capello told the committee that the Board of Selectmen met on the previous Monday and made some additional cuts to the proposed Town budget. He gave the members copies of the budget report with the cuts made by the board encircled.

He said this year's Town tax rate with the \$250,000 buy down was \$6.97. The budget total for this year, including the warrant articles would increase the tax rate by 26 cents over the \$6.97 for a total of \$7.23. This could change based on the amount of revenue received as the anticipated revenues are figured conservatively he said.

Mr. Capello said the Selectmen's goal was to try to get as close to \$6.97 as possible as there is not much fund balance left to buy down the tax rate as has been done in the past. The tax rate prior to the buy down was \$7.34 he said.

Anticipated Revenues - Mr. Capello said the Town is anticipating an increase in revenues of \$22,860 from motor vehicle registrations and Payment in Lieu of Taxes. The largest PILOT payment is from the City of Rochester (\$23,000 yearly) for their reservoir land that was previously in Current Use illegally.

He said the budget comparison between this year and last year shows the overall operating budget minus the warrant articles is down approx. \$97,119. The appropriation to be raised through taxation is down \$55,119. The budget as presented will go to Town Meeting at \$5,739,594 not including the warrant articles he said.

Mr. Capello said Selectmen also made some changes to the anticipated revenues for 2018. He

said one change that stands out is the revenue from pistol permits which was dropped from \$1,000 to \$750 now that the state has become a non-permit carry state. There will still be some permits needed due to the reciprocity with other states he said.

Executive - Mr. Capello said the Executive portion of the budget is up approx. \$1,600 due to wage increases given by Selectmen to Town employees in 2017. The increases are taken from a pool of money in the budget and then transferred into the various salary lines he said.

The overall health insurance cost went down 6% this year due to better modification rates.

Ms. McElhinney said the wage adjustments line (Line 01-4155-30-190) doesn't accurately reflect the actual amounts that were originally placed in this line and asked if there is a way to more accurately record the amount set aside for wage increases.

Mr. Capello said the amount was \$21,000 but the total amount can't be entered in this line because it would then be double budgeted.

Election, Registration & Vital Statistics- Mr. Capello said this section is up \$1,400 due to having 3 elections in the coming year. The Town Clerk always budgets for an additional election in the event there is a need for a special election he said.

Mr. Henry asked how much an election costs.

Mr. Johnson said the costs include ballot clerks, Supervisors of the Checklist, printing ballots, election meals, the Moderator and is approx. \$1,000 per election.

Financial Administration- This section is down \$10,881 due to decreased health care costs.

Revaluation of Property- Mr. Capello said this section is down \$400.

Ms. McElhinney said she assumed that appraisals were cyclical where the complete appraisal was done every 4 years and in the off years a preliminary appraisal was conducted.

Mr. Capello said every 4 years a major appraisal is done at a cost of about \$60,000 - \$70,000 which is why a Capital Reserve Fund was created last year to set aside \$25,000 for this use. Selectmen have taken the funds out of the 2017 undesignated fund balance so there is no tax impact to the CRF.

He said the \$13,700 in the budget is for the Town's licensed Assessor who picks up completed building permits on a regular basis to see that the property is assessed properly and handles any appeals through the NH Bureau of Tax and Land Appeals. The Assessor was the one who discovered that the Rochester owned land in Farmington was in Current Use illegally he said.

Mr. Capello said the Town contracts with a different assessor for utility appraisals. The utilities in town include NH Co-op, MetroCast, Eversource and TDS whose poles, lines, equipment and the land under the poles are assessed he said.

Mr. Henry asked why the Town doesn't use one company for all appraisal work.

Mr. Capello said it is because utility appraisal is a specialty only conducted by certain people.

Personnel Administration- Mr. Capello said this budget is up \$6,000 mainly due to the salary increases.

Mr. Johnson added these salary increases are for non-union Town employees.

Planning & Zoning- Mrs. Arcouette asked about the Planner's salary being up by \$10,000.

Mr. Capello said the Planner worked for the Town for about 8 months last year. The increase is based on his rate of \$35 an hour x 26 hours weekly for an entire year.

Mrs. Arcouette asked why Selectmen reduced the Planner's hours from 30 to 26 hours weekly.

Mr. Capello said it was a budgetary cut and they feel he can get the job done in 26 hours a week now that he is caught up on the backlog of work in the Planning Office.

Legal Expenses- Mr. Capello said there is a \$13,000 increase in this section because the line is now funded to what is typically spent for legal services.

General Government Buildings- The \$19,000 increase includes the maintenance for the new Public Safety Building and the Fire and Police Dept. previous maintenance lines.

Mr. Henry asked for the Fire and Police Dept. maintenance lines amounts and noted the Town was supposed to save money on maintenance with the new building.

Mr. Capello said the lines were typically budgeted at \$45,000, but last year it was cut to \$35,000 because so much work was done the year before. The Police Dept. had \$4,000 in their maintenance line and the Fire Dept. had \$3,000 in its maintenance line in years past.

Ms. Connolly asked about the solar power generating facility to be installed at the Town landfill.

Mr. Capello said it is in process and would be listed under the landfill portion of the budget. He said that the revenue section will list \$16,000 in revenues from the project.

Ms. Connolly asked if that would affect the cost of lights for the Town buildings

Mr. Capello said it may but he could not answer that question until the facility is up and running. He said 99% of the permitting process has been completed and they are expected to break ground in the spring.

Mr. Henry noted the line is up \$19,000.

Mr. Capello said the total line is up \$19,000 not just for building maintenance as the line also includes propane, lighting, oil and service contracts for the building. Repairs and maintenance is up \$1,000 from last year compared to the \$5,000 previously budgeted for that line he said.

Insurance- Mr. Capello said this section is down slightly but it is expected to increase next year due to the addition of the premium for Public Safety Building now that it's completed.

Police - The Police budget is down \$37,371 due to staff turnover and lower rates for new staff.

Mr. Johnson said the budget was also reduced by removing the building maintenance and utilities from the Police Dept. and moving them to the General Gov. Buildings Line.

Mr. Henry asked if there is now the same number of officers as there was previously.

Mr. Capello said there is the same number of officers in the dept. now.

Mr. Johnson said there is a \$12,000 increase in personnel costs due to the collective bargaining agreement that passed last year for the Police Dept.

Mr. Henry asked if the COPS Grant is reflected in this section.

Mr. Capello said it is reflected in the budget and as revenue in the revenue report. He said the Town receives 75% of the officer's salary from the federal government. The School District pays

80% of the remaining 25% of the salary and the Town pays the last 20%. He gave kudos to everyone involved in applying for the grant as Farmington was one of only 3 towns in the state to receive a grant.

Fire – The Fire Dept. budget is up \$45,000. Because of increased call volume the Chief would like to add an additional person for 24 hours on the weekends as there are currently only 2 people on the weekends. He would also like to purchase some equipment not bought last year due to purchase of the forestry truck.

Mr. Henry said the dept. used the HUMVEE when responding to forestry calls and asked if there is now a second forestry vehicle.

Mr. Capello said the vehicle is actually a utility truck purchased from the Town of Milton to replace the old utility vehicle and the dept. still uses the HUMVEE.

Mr. Johnson said that EMS Billing is going up about \$1,500 because the Town is going to a new billing service with a higher service charge. They anticipate a minimum 5% increase in collections so the higher service rate will be more than offset through collections he said.

Mr. Henry asked if the increased call volume on the weekends comes with increased revenue.

Mr. Capello said there should be increased revenue if the calls are EMS calls. He said that they have bumped up the expected revenue to \$300,000 from \$250,000 for this year based on the increase in the call volume and the increased revenues expected from the new collections firm.

Mr. Johnson said that is a conservative estimate in the percentage of monies collected as the Chief found that other depts. using this company have seen a 7-12% increase in collection rates.

Building Inspection – This section is down \$79,435 because all of Building Inspector's wages and benefits will be withdrawn from the Special Revenue Fund (SRF) instead putting the first 3 months of his wages and benefits in the operating budget as was done previously. There will be \$1 in the line so if for some reason the warrant article does not pass the Town can still pay him. Mr. Henry asked for the balance in the SRF now.

Mr. Capello said there is approx. \$53,000 in that account.

Emergency Management – Mr. Capello said this budget is down \$1,600. Each year the Army Corps of Engineers cites the Town for the levee stating it won't handle the volume and flow of water passing through there even though it has done so during 200 year floods. The Corps wanted the Town to dredge the river bottom back to the 1950's level when the levee was first installed. A hydrologist hired by the Town found that with the new Main Street Bridge and new culverts it will handle the water volume. There are some other things to be corrected but this has probably saved the Town more than \$1 million by not having to dredge the river he said.

Administration Highway and Streets – Mr. Capello said this section is down \$32,884 because of staff turnover and some of the staffing was moved to other lines.

Mr. Johnson said some of the DPW staff has collateral jobs within the DPW such as the Transfer Station, Water, Waste Water Depts. and they have been broken out by dept. so each dept. pays its portion of the salary and benefit lines.

Mr. Henry asked if the employees have to punch in/out between depts. or if the hours are estimated.

Mr. Capello said the DPW Director provides an estimate of employees' hours in each dept.

Mrs. Elbert asked if the Town is not planning on hiring an Assistant DPW Director.

Mr. Capello said there is currently a DPW Deputy Director and his salary is contained in one salary lines.

Highway and Streets – This budget is up approx. \$42,000 due to the transfer of costs to the proper lines and re-stocking the cutting edges that protect the bottom of the plow blade. The rebuild/repair/repave roads line was level funded to keep working toward having the roads in better condition Mr. Capello said.

Mrs. Arcouette asked if the town received a grant last year related to road work.

Mr. Capello said the Town received \$141,000 from surplus state funds for infrastructure work. The DPW Director applied for a clean diesel grant to replace the 35 year old bucket loader and received the grant. With both funds combined and the sale of existing loader for scrap metal, the Town should be able to purchase a new loader with no tax impact to the taxpayers he said.

Ms. Connolly asked if the purchase of the loader will be on a warrant article this year.

Mr. Capello said that the state said the funds can only be spent for certain purposes but doesn't require a warrant article to spend the money.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that the Highway Salt line was up about \$30,000 more than what was budgeted because of heavy snow season that started in December.

Mr. Lauze asked if there is a plan to deal with the Main Street end of School Street as the road is so rough that when it is plowed the plow bounces around and the street is not cleared.

Mr. Capello said he would have to check the 5 year road plan to see what is planned for road repairs this year although the plan may be subject to change.

Mr. Lauze suggested the DPW consider clearing the area of Spring, School and Wilson Streets after a storm as it is difficult for drivers to get around the school buses on the tight streets.

Mr. Capello said he was meeting with the DPW Director and Deputy Director the next day and would discuss the idea with them.

Bridges – This portion of the budget has been leveled funded to the 2017 amount.

Street Lighting- This section has decreased by \$24,000 in anticipated savings in electricity because the 193 street lights in town have been switched to LED lights. The budget number may be further reduced next year when there is a whole year of data on electricity use/costs to review. The repair line has been reduced to \$1 because the lights have a 10 year warranty.

Sanitation Administration – Mr. Capello said the landfill personnel line is up \$13,000 as that reflects their share the employee salaries as stated earlier. He said the landfill part time line was reduced last year to reduce the bottom line, but the historical average spending for this line is \$32,000 so the line was increased by \$16,000.

Solid Waste Disposal - The \$5,000 increase is mostly due to the union contract approved last

year. Some of the cost is also due to the new car and bag stickers for this year.

Ms. McElhinney noted that only \$358 was expended from the repairs and parts line.

Mr. Capello said some of the repairs were covered under warranty at no cost to the Town.

There is also a maintenance plan to service the landfill equipment to avoid future issues he said.

Mr. Henry asked about the revenue from the Transfer Station stickers.

Mr. Capello said it is included in the income from depts. portion of the revenue report.

Mr. Henry asked what other revenue is included in that line.

Ms. Connolly said the landfill revenues could be found on page 4 of the revenue report.

Mr. Johnson said the landfill recycling cost has increased significantly mostly due to China narrowing their list of acceptable recyclable items and the condition of items they will accept.

The recyclables go through Waste Management and they are accepting fewer items so the unacceptable items are put into the household waste collection. There is more chance of the whole load being rejected so more time is being spent by the attendants checking the load for correct contents he said.

Mr. Capello said there was also a 5% contractual increase with Waste Management this year.

Mr. Henry asked if it is time to consider going back to requiring sorting of recyclable items.

Mr. Capello said there would first have to be an analysis of the markets and the values of recyclable materials.

Mr. Lauze suggested contacting the Town of Alton as they still require residents to sort their recyclables.

Ms. Connolly noted the Town wouldn't have to hire someone to sort the materials as the residents would do it themselves.

Mr. Johnson said part of the problem is that someone has to watch everything at the Transfer Station with potential contamination from non-recyclable items mixed in with the recyclables.

Mr. Capello said there are items in the recycle bins that don't belong there because people don't want to pay to dispose of them properly. He said there would be up front costs to convert the Transfer Station back into sorting stations from the single stream collection bins there now.

Mr. Henry said he would like to know the value of aluminum cans sorted to just aluminum cans versus the value of the cans mixed into a single stream collection. A bin for just corrugated paper has been added in the last 6 months he said.

Mr. Capello said they can optimize the weight of the recyclables that can be sent out by taking the cardboard out of the stream and bundling it separately. He said the landfill staff is trying to educate the public about the changes and some informational signs have been posted.

Mr. Henry suggested they post some information on Cable TV Channel 26 as well.

Animal Control – This section is down due to lowering the budget for sheltering animals and for supplies so it is more in line with what was spent.

Health Agencies & Hospitals – These lines are level funded to last year.

Welfare Administration – This section is down slightly due to insurance.

Mr. Lauze asked if there is just one full time person in the Welfare Dept. and if the position should be part or full time.

Mr. Capello said that there is one full time person in this position and her primary responsibility is Welfare Director but also she does the administrative assistant duties for the Economic Development Committee, (and the Capital Improvement Plan Committee), special projects and assists in other depts. as needed.

He said the welfare rents budget has decreased from a high of \$120,000 to the \$21,000 budgeted for this year. She does a little bit of everything for the Town and it is not as easy to categorize her time as it is for the DPW employees he said.

Mr. Henry said he asked for a break out of her general government duties versus her welfare duties last year and the committee still doesn't have the information.

Mr. Capello said it would be almost impossible to break out her duties budgetary-wise unless he was to make a guess. He said he will provide a job description to the members.

Mrs. Arcouette added she would have to carry around a journal to record how much time she spends doing each task which would be a waste of her time.

Welfare Rents – This line is down to \$21,000 this year. Mr. Capello said there is also a trust fund that can be used for needy people in town.

Mr. Johnson said the trusts include the Isabel Billings Fund, the Leon Hayes Fund, the Simpson-Cotton Fund, the Thayer trusts with the Trustees being the agents to expend the funds.

Parks & Recreation – Mr. Capello said the total for these lines is down \$18,604 mostly due to moving about \$15,000 into the Rec. Revolving Fund to properly reflect the amount of time the Director and Asst. Director spend with the programs that are funded through that account.

Mr. Johnson noted that the funds in the revolving account come from user fees.

Mr. Capello said there is approx. \$80,000 in the revolving fund.

Farmington Library – The library budget is down \$10,552 because they did as the Bud Com requested last year and opened on Wednesdays for 6 months. Based on the numbers they determined it was not fiscally responsible to continue to be open on Wednesday.

Patriotic Purposes- This line was level funded to last year at \$1,000.

Other Economic Development- Coast Bus- Mr. Johnson said this line is up \$1,000 this year.

Mr. Capello said this was due to a decision by Selectmen to fully fund the requested \$25,000 contribution and receive half of the company's bus shelter advertising revenues earned in town (\$3,100) in return.

Mr. Capello said he is a member of the Coast Board of Directors and attends their monthly board meetings. He said there is already \$1,100 in revenues in the bank for the Town based on their fiscal year which started in October.

Mr. Lauze asked how the funding for Coast Bus works.

Mr. Capello said the town pays the \$25,000 up front and the company sends a check to the Town for half of what is collected in revenues. There is a formula that they use to calculate the

amount each community should pay based on ridership, their population within a half mile of bus stops and other factors used to determine each town's share of the costs he said.

Mr. Henry asked for the number of bus stops in town.

Mr. Capello said there are 3 bus stops in town.

Mr. Lauze asked if there is a cost to the Coast bus riders.

Mr. Capello said the riders pay a reduced fee because of the contribution from the Town.

Ms. Connolly asked what happens to money from the bus fees.

Mr. Capello said it goes to Coast to help offset their costs. The bus company receives federal grants, ridership fees and contributions from the towns to fund the service he said.

Mr. Henry noted the riders pay the least portion of the cost to run a bus.

Mr. Johnson said the rider pays 10% or 15% of the cost and basically matches what the Town contributes which is about \$1.50 per rider per one-way trip and then federal, state and other grants pay the rest of the cost. He said he estimated it costs Coast about \$6 a trip from Farmington to Rochester to run the bus.

Conservation Commission – Economic Development Committee – These 2 lines are level funded to last year.

Mr. Henry noted the Economic Development line is down from 2017 and asked if anything was spent from that line in 2017.

Mr. Capello said the Economic Development Committee had planned to purchase more folders for handouts with Town and local business information but additional folders were found.

Principal-Long Term Bonds and Notes- Mr. Capello said this section decreased because one of the bonds has been paid and has "fallen off the books". He said he did not remember which bond that it was and the information could be found in the 2017 Annual Town Report.

TIF District – Mr. Lauze asked about the status of the TIF District and the extension of the sewer lines out through the Route 11 corridor.

Mr. Capello said they are trying to get a meeting of the TIF Advisory Board set up because there is now some revenue from the new Aroma Joe's coffee shop going into that account.

Mrs. Elbert asked if the money deposited into that account is only from new businesses in the TIF District.

Mr. Capello said it comes from taxes on new construction and/or upgrades.

Mr. Johnson said there may be some money from the Vape Shop as improvements were made to the building.

Mr. Henry said there was point where valuations were locked in and then the taxation on any increase in value goes into the fund. He asked if there is any "slide" included to account for the increase to the base evaluation due to inflation.

Mr. Capello said it is fixed for 10 years and if the sewer project is not completed any funds in the account go back to the general fund.

Mr. Lauze said it is something of a "catch-22" where businesses won't want to come there

without the sewer lines and the lines can't be extended without the tax money from the businesses.

Mr. Capello said the way the warrant article was written the town would not enter into a bond for the project until there was enough yearly revenue going into the account to make the bond payments.

Mr. Johnson noted the Public Safety Building (new construction) and Farmington Children's Center (significant improvements to the property) are both in the TIF District but no revenue is generated from either property.

Mr. Capello then asked if the committee wished to review the Waste Water/Sewer dept. budget. He said it doesn't affect the tax rate as it is a user based Enterprise Fund.

Mr. Henry asked if the Selectmen manage this fund.

Mr. Capello said the board sets the rates for users.

Mr. Henry explained that the fees paid by the water and sewer users go into a fund that pays for the water and sewer. They operate on the money they take in but some things still fall on the tax payer such as the bond for the waste water treatment plant approved by voters. The state only allows Enterprise Funds for certain purposes he said.

Warrant Articles:

Mr. Capello suggested the committee review the figures but not to review the actual wording as the warrant has not yet been sent for legal or Dept. of Revenue Administration review. The articles have all been recommended by Selectmen or would not be before the committee he said.

New Ambulance - The first article is to purchase a new ambulance for \$240,000 to be funded by withdrawal of \$106,000 from the Emergency Motorized Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and the funds from the Chief Fowler insurance settlement with no cost to the taxpayers.

Mr. Henry asked if the ambulance would be fully outfitted including a power cot at that price.

Mr. Capello said the ambulance would be fully equipped. He said they are looking at getting a power suspension that would lower the back of the ambulance so the EMS personnel don't have to support the weight of the patient and the cot while placing them into the ambulance.

Ms. Connolly asked for the age of the current ambulances.

Mr. Capello said the one being replaced is 12 years old.

Mr. Johnson said the price doesn't include any potential trade-in deal or revenue from selling it.

Mr. Henry asked how much the ambulance cost when it was first purchased by the town.

Mr. Capello said it was a demo ambulance and recalled that it cost about \$180,000.

Town Employee Financial Obligation Fund - Mr. Capello said this article seeks to deposit \$3,000 in the fund to pay unused leave for long term retiring employees which was nearly depleted last year when the former DPW Director Dale Sprague retired.

Ms. McElhinney asked if this fund was strictly for non-union employees.

Mr. Capello said that is correct.

Withdrawal from the Special Revenue Fund for Farmington Cable TV – Mr. Capello said this article appears each year as the SRF is used to fund the Cable TV Coordinator’s salary and the purchase of equipment. The SRF is funded by the cable TV franchise fees and there is approx. \$200,000 in the account he said.

Mr. Capello said there is also usually a warrant article to fund the Future Technology fund but the TDS cable franchise fee is now deposited in this fund.

Withdrawal from the Building Inspector SRF – This article seeks approval to withdraw \$67,000 to pay the salary for the Building Inspector position.

Mr. Johnson said the SRF is funded by building and inspection fees.

Mr. Brown asked if there were any plans to amend the SRF to allow expenditures not specified in the warrant article.

Mr. Capello said there are certain things he would like to do with those funds such as funding the costs for the Secretary and other related dept. costs but it was too late to put together an amendment for this year’s warrant.

Master Plan- If approved, this article would allow the creation of a Capital Reserve Fund with \$20,000 to begin the update of the Master Plan. Mr. Capello said he originally put \$30,000 in the article but Selectmen cut the amount to be set aside to \$20,000. He said the update is overdue and the plan is frequently used to qualify to grant funds and provides a vision of the town for the next 5 to 10 years. Once the CRF is approved work will begin on a comprehensive plan that includes hiring a consultant, conducting research and public surveys.

Mr. Johnson said the last update cost about \$80,000.

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus CRF - This article proposes to raise and appropriate \$15,000 to deposit in this existing CRF for the purchase of the Scott Packs for the Fire Dept. Mr. Capello said the Chief continues to apply for a grant for the units but they must be replaced next year whether or not the town receives a grant at a cost of approx. \$260,000.

Chairman Arcouette asked if all of the packs expire at the same time.

Mr. Capello said they expire at the same time because the town received all of the units at the same time through a Homeland Security grant. He said it may be possible to set up a rotating replacement schedule with the CRF in the future by continuing to fund the account.

Mr. Brown asked if the Selectmen could be the agents to expend the funds in a CRF.

Mr. Capello said the board was named as agents to expend the funds when the CRF was set up.

Landfill Closure Fund- To see if the Town will appropriate \$31,429 for the testing for the landfill closure from the existing CRF.

Mr. Johnson said there is approx. \$158,000 in the fund.

Mr. Henry asked how the CRF is funded.

Mr. Capello said the town had a 5 year grant for about \$200,000 and the grant ended this year.

Revaluation of the Town- to put \$5,000 in the existing CRF for the 2019 town revaluation. Mr. Capello said the town has locked in a price of \$65,000 for the revaluation.

Police Outside Detail SRF – to withdraw \$90,000 from the existing SRF for the purchase of a Police cruiser. Mr. Capello said this account is funded from the revenue received when Police Officers perform detail work and is used to pay the detail Officer's salary and purchase cruisers. Mr. Brown asked why a SRF was set up instead of revolving fund with the detail revenues. Mr. Johnson said a revolving fund can only be used for Recreation and Conservation purposes. Mr. Brown said they can also be used for Police Details as stated in the RSA's. Mr. Capello said this fund was set up long before he became Town Administrator.

Bridges and Road Design CRF – To put \$5,000 into the existing CRF. Mr. Capello said the town currently has 3 "red lined" bridges and is eligible for state bridge aid. These funds are being set aside in preparation for the next round of aid so the town will be "shovel ready" for the next bridge project.

Recreation Equipment Fund CRF - To put \$2,000 in the existing CRF. Mr. Capello said that previously this article sought to place \$4,000 in the fund but it was cut back to \$2,000 this year. Mrs. Arcouette asked for the total amount in the fund. Mr. Johnson said there is approx. \$12,000 in the fund. Ms. McElhinney asked what the money can be used for.

Mr. Capello said it can be used for equipment or vehicles used by the Rec. dept.

Highway Equipment CRF- to put \$5,000 in the existing fund. Mr. Capello said this fund has approx. \$51,000 in it currently.

Mrs. Elbert asked if this was to add to the fund for future use.

Mr. Capello said these funds are used to buy items such as vehicles, plows and equipment.

Ms. McElhinney asked when vehicles or equipment is sold where the money goes.

Mr. Capello said the money goes into the general fund.

She asked if anything was sold last year or if there are plans to sell anything this year.

Mr. Capello said an Army truck was sold for \$7,000 last year and they may sell the old ambulance as part of the plan to purchase a new one this year.

Mr. Lauze asked about the uses for the Police Dept. HUMVEE.

Mr. Capello said they use it for off road and heavy snow situations. He said the town received 2 HUMVEE's and the Fire Dept. uses the second one. Then in 2016, the President signed an Executive Order that any HUMVEE's not used by the Police Dept. were considered armored vehicles (even though they have canvas doors and top) and had to be returned to the federal government. The Fire Chief objected to the NH U.S. Congressional delegation and helped to get the order overturned and the HUMVEE returned to the Town. At one point the Police Dept. drove it to a forest fire because the Fire Dept. wasn't allowed to drive it because it had to have "MP" plates on it he said.

Waste Water Treatment Plant- To raise and appropriate \$25,000 to be deposited in the CRF to offset depreciation of the plant. This appropriation is contingent upon an equivalent match from the Waste Water Enterprise Fund up to \$25,000.

Mr. Henry said this is a situation where people outside of the system pay for a system they don't have access to in addition to the payments they already make (the bond) for a system they don't have access to.

Mr. Henry asked if there are any major initiatives going on this year or anything they are trying to accomplish.

Mr. Capello said one issue is the Master Plan and goals for this year will be an agenda item for the next Selectmen's meeting. He said the goals won't necessarily be monetary but may include items such as updating the job descriptions.

4). Any Other Business to come before the Committee: None

5). Public Comment:

Goodwin Library Director Tami LaRock said she wanted to thank the committee for recommending funding the opportunity to be open on Wednesdays. She said that unfortunately there was not the number of patrons hoped for so it would not be fiscally responsible to ask the committee to recommend funding \$20,000 for a day that turned out to be a little disappointing.

Ms. McElhinney asked if the committee wished to have the library budget presented to them. Consensus of the committee was they were satisfied with what was presented to them on paper.

6). Adjournment:

Motion: (Connolly, second E. Johnson) to adjourn the meeting passed unanimously at 7:25 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Magoon

Recording Secretary

Sylvia Arcouette, Chairman