

Selectmen Budget Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 7, 2015 @ 5:30 PM
Southwest Harbor Town Office

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was opened by Chairman Norwood at 5:30PM. In attendance with Chairman included George Jellison, Thomas Benson, David Minctons, Lydia Goetze, finance director Tabbetha Newenham and Town Manager Don Lagrange. Members of the audience included members of the warrant committee, Superintendent Howard Coulter, Principle Dianne Helprin, Nancy Thurlow and school board members. Ingrid Kachmar represented the Campfire Coalition as well as participating on the school board. Paul Murphy from Island Explorer.

II. Budget discussions included the following:

a. Fire Chief Sam Chisholm presented his budget with an increase of \$1,365 primarily due to inspection procedures for fire hoses being done by a professional company rather than depending on volunteers since this a rather time consuming process and this process will be more efficient to comply with State regulations. Electricity had an increase due to projected rate hikes. Medical serviced, water utility, oil, janitorial supplies, generator maintenance and dues and publications line items projected slight decreases. In Fire CIP, the Selectmen proposed one line for 'firefighting apparatus' with sub lines describing the different vehicles. Decisions will be made on as as-needed basis as to which vehicle needs replacement utilizing funds in this category. A current balance of \$86,742 will be augmented with the proposed increase of \$8,563.

b. Selectmen decreased projected PERC revenue by \$4,000 to \$40,000 and increased projected revenue from building permits by \$2,500 and Plumbing permits by \$1,500 based on recent history. Tremont dispatch expense was increase by \$4,000 due to percentage of use. Chief Miller stated Tremont utilizes SWH dispatch 11.93% of total calls equating to \$30,845. Selectmen increased their cost from \$16,000 to \$20,000. Harbor hoist fees and mooring fee projected revenue was increased based on Harbormasters representation of actual use by \$7,000.

George Jellison moved to accept the proposed revenue budget of \$737,100, an increase from past budget by \$12,100. Seconded by Tom Benson and voted in favor 5/0/0.

c. Ingrid Kachmar represented Maine Sea Coast Mission which oversees the MDI Campfire Coalition requesting an increase from last year's funding by \$500 to \$3,000. During the past heating season, the coalition assisted 158 families which include 57 from Southwest Harbor.

d. Ingrid also represented the Harbor House request which is the same amount from this past budget totaling \$56,340. She described new programs being made available to the residents including expanded after school day care and other youth oriented programs which have been very successful. The donation from SWH is important to maintaining several youth programs.

e. Paul Murphy of the Island Explorer summarized their operation as being very successful this past season with over 500,000 riders who can use the bus free of charge. This is done with public and private donations. The \$10,000 request from SWH

helps provide approximately \$270,000 worth of services to Southwest Harbor. This request has not changed for the past 10 years.

f. Dianne Helprin, Nancy Thurlow, Howard Coulter and the School Board summarized the draft budget which will require confirmation at their next school board meeting. It was estimated the school budget to increase with debt service by \$50,707 or 1.54%.

A motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM was made by Tom Benson. Seconded by George Jellison and voted in favor 5/0/0.

DRAFT