

## BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2018

**Presiding:** Ed Morgan

**Members Present:** Paul Donnellan, Sue McIntyre, Ed Morgan, Justin Reinhardt

**Members Absent:** Howard Burnham, William Jones, Steve McLean

**Selectmen Present:** Dottie Richard, Wendy Thorne

**Guests:** Amanda LePage, Resident, Dean LePage, Resident, Lisa LePage, Parks & Recreation Director, John McIntyre, resident; Laura May, Town Treasurer.

**1. Call to order – count for quorum**

The meeting was called to order at 7: 02 p.m.  
A quorum was established

**2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes of November 1, 2018**

*A motion was made by Paul Donnellan to accept the minutes of November 1, 2018, seconded by Justin Reinhardt. It was noted that under Agenda item #4 - Review Proposed Tax Collector / Town Clerk Budget, and Elections Budget, that the last sentence of “Motion passed with all in favor” was missing. Paul Donnellan motioned to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Justin Reinhardt. Motion passed with all in favor.*

**3. Review Proposed Recreation Department Budget**

Ed Morgan noted that the Parks and Recreation Department is requesting a total budget of \$34,450 for 2019. Among the breakdown of items listed in the Budget is a stipend/pay increase of 49% with a decrease of 18% in FICA. Supplies show a 27% increase. Equipment proposes a 119% increase. Repair and Maintenance (Building and Grounds), is proposed at \$17,650 which is a 120%, and Utilities proposed at a 79% increase. (These totals are in comparison to the 2018 budget). All in all, the entire proposed budget for 2019 is requesting an increase of 50% greater than 2018.

It was noted that past discussions with Parks and Recreation included considering taking the “Capital Improvement Proposed Projects” and separating that from what is considered “Operational Budget” items. Hence, the “Capital Improvement Projects” in this proposed budget for 2019 totaling \$17,650 could be listed and considered as a separate warrant article for the Town Meeting in March.

Lisa LePage, Parks and Recreation Director confirmed that the total proposed amount for “Capital Improvements” is \$17,650.00 and agreed that it should be listed as “Capital Improvements”. Movement by the Budget Committee on this issue as well as the “Operational Budget” will be finalized at the next Budget Committee meeting scheduled for November 29, 2018.

Discussion ensued. Lisa noted that revenues totaled \$5,541 making the proposed operational budget request approximately \$8,657 that’s with taking into consideration the subtraction of the \$17,650 for Capital Improvements, which then makes the actual proposed operational budget \$14,199. However, these totals were later corrected to be \$16,800 and not \$14,199, making the proposed operational budget request at \$11,259 instead of \$8,657. It was re-affirmed that an additional request for \$17,650 for capital improvements would be listed separately in the warrant articles.

A question and discussion period followed. Questions about the various programs included: i.e., how many Limerick residents (children/teens, etc.) vs. non-residents take advantage of the sports programs? Lisa replied for “basketball there were 60 children with 3 being non-residents (with non-residents paying an additional fee); Soccer included 95 players with 9 being non-residents; swimming had 2 non-residents and 7 Limerick residents. It was determined that the Program provides sports programs to about 250 kids/teens. Lisa added that the Soccer Program had expanded greatly going from about 60 kids to 90 kids being served. This is the reason for a proposal to expand the Soccer Field. However, it was clarified that the expansion is for High School Level Soccer Program and there are currently 19 teens in that level of program.

Lisa also explained how much work had already been done to the current field to bring it back up to “par” and felt that it is worth it to the Town to keep “investing”, so to speak in upkeep and improving that field area. Laura May also came forth to explain why the total amount of revenues does not return to the Parks and Recreation Department account. Out of the \$5,541 in revenues received by Parks & Rec., \$3,000 was allocated to off-set the tax commitment and the balance of \$2,541 would be going back into the general fund. Laura added that the Town has already utilized that \$3,000 for the tax commitment.

Lisa noted that the Parks & Recreation also includes other programs such as the upcoming Block Party scheduled for 2020, Sewing, Tumblers, etc. Other funding options were also discussed including applying for free monies through grants for such items as playground equipment or field / landscape enhancements/improvements that are made available through many non-profits, foundations and philanthropists. Unlike State and Federal Grants that require upfront monies /and/or a percentage of matching funds, etc., these grants do not require any upfront monies at all. However, “legwork”, so to speak is required to complete the paperwork. The idea being that any grants received would lessen any expenditures brought forth to be paid by taxpayers.

Parks and Recreation will be returning to the next Budget Committee scheduled for November 29, 2018 at which time the Budget Committee will finalize acceptance of an agreed-upon Operational Budget by the entire Budget Committee.

#### **4. Review of Proposed Fire Department Budget**

Ed Morgan distributed a proposed budget for “Option 2 Staffing Full Year – Blended Coverage” for the Fire Department. The proposed budget includes an Operational Budget cost total of \$136,665.45. The proposed Option 2 staffing budget totals \$247,439.98 and there is an additional total yearly stipend budget of \$20,000. Subsequently, the total proposed Fire Department Budget for 2019 totals \$404,105.43

#### **5. Other business**

A quick review of the “Master List of Proposed Department Budgets” took place. The Master List indicates which Department proposed budgets have now been accepted and which ones still need to be reviewed a second time and/or accepted and finalized. Budgets left to review and/or accept, etc. include “Charities”; “Cemeteries”, “Board of Selectmen”, “Fire Department”, and “Parks and Recreation”.

*Paul Donnellan made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Justin Reinhardt. Motion carried with all in favor.*

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Suzanne McIntyre  
Recording Secretary