

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
NORTHFIELD TOWN HALL
21 SUMMER STREET
NORTHFIELD, NH**

MINUTES

DATE: January 11, 2007

PRESENT:	George Corliss, Jr.	Yes
	Leif Martinson	Yes
	Steve Randall	Yes
	Linda Pardy	Yes
	Patricia Sawicki	Yes
	Lisa Swancott	Yes
	Sel. Stephen Bluhm	Yes

Meeting Open at 7:30 p.m. and adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Leif Martinson.

NEXT MEETING is scheduled for **January 18th at 6:30PM** and will be working session to walk through line-by-line and complete initial budget committee recommendations for all line items. If necessary, a second working session will be held on January 25th.

Questions, working from January 4th budget report:

Page 14: SOLID WASTE

- What makes up the line 'Landfill Costs' and why was the budget request increased to \$25,915 for 2007 when only \$9,139 was spent in 2006?
- What is the breakdown of costs for the \$6,500 request in Maintenance Costs? Steve Bluhm thought this was for improvements to the gravel/parking area at the Transfer Station.

Page 15: SOLID WASTE, continued.

- What is in the line 'Recycling Improvements' for \$2,000 and how is that different from 'Maintenance Costs' above?
- What is the total 2006 Revenue for the Transfer/Recycling Center and is it self-sufficient or profitable?
- Can you identify the revenue related to Shingle disposal?
- If the Transportation Costs for the Landfill were \$10,000 over budget in 2006, why is the request for 2007 only \$22,000? Will this be enough? Was the 2006 overage and anomaly?

- Why is the Health Officer budget line still open with \$100? If we need to keep the line open (we were under the impression that the Chief of Police was also the Health Officer), can it be done with \$1.

Page 16: ANIMAL CONTROL

- If we have a contract with Birch Hill Kennels to handle all of the Animal Control issues, why do we need a \$500 Miscellaneous cost line in the budget?
- What does Birch Hill do when they cannot find suitable home placement for stray dogs and cats? Do we have any oversight or enforcement rights there to ensure that strays are remanded to the Humane Society if they cannot be placed?

Page 18: CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

- Why the request for \$1600 in administrative costs if they have only spent about \$1000 in each of the last 2 years? Can we get an accounting of what the \$1000 was used for?
- On Debt Service, is there any benefit at this point to paying down some of the principal of the Library Bond and/or refinancing that bond if a lower rate is available?
- On the Lease/Police Cruiser Line, shouldn't the budgeted amount for 2007 include the principal and interest total of \$20,849 (found on page 19), instead of the principal only of \$19,745.