

### MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2017 BUDGET COMMITTEE

Chair Arch Weathers called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm on Dec. 6, 2017. Members present: Arch Weathers, Ed Hiller, Morgan Salathe, Nancy Teach, Mary Ann Levesque. Mark Heller, ex officio school, Jim Delaney, ex officio Select Board. Absent Chris Norris

The purpose of this meeting was to hear budget requests from the Cemetery Trustees, Andover Fire Department, Andover Village District, and Andover Recreation Department.

Presentation from the **Cemetery Trustees** – By Pat Cutter and Bill Keyser Review of the Cemetery budget. Maintenance amounts (done by the town crew) remain the same. New sexton hired – salary increase from \$550 to \$750. Hope he will take up some of the duties presently done by the trustees; installing cornerstones, selling of lots, etc. Some discussion ensued over funds set aside this year (2017) for repair of stones in E. Andover Church cemetery (\$1200) due to the fact the work is already contracted from 2017, and the funds in a non-lapsing fund. However, the status of the funds was in question was not entirely certain. The final conclusion was that the Cemetery committee will review the budget and check status of the capital reserve (revolving fund) with town bookkeeper (Elita) and resubmit the budget for further review.

Presentation from the **Andover Fire Department** – Rene Lefebvre and Andy Guptill. Andy G presented a brief review of the 5-year merge of the East Andover Fire Department and Andover Village Fire Department. The process is nearly complete and will be official as of Jan. 1. Thanks offered to Jay Boynton for donating legal help and Mark Stetson for real estate assistance during the process. The hope is that the combined departments will help minimize costs moving forward. As of now, they own their equipment and have no debt! Review of the budget indicated that most items are combined from the 2 departments with an overall savings from 2017. Funding for a new command car will come from the sale of older tanker and box truck with the difference made up from the Benevolent Fund. Leftover funds from 2016 were used for maintenance to make the building more efficient. All in all, they were pleased to be able to keep the budget so low!

Presentation from the **Andover Village District** (water) – by Mike Vercelotti. Trying to keep rates low. Got behind on a few projects and haven't spent all of the allocated funds. Discussion on the timber tax paid (\$1089) and plans to recoup funds through irrigation fees. Mike has been taking a salary, and anticipates the budget needing to sustain a salary for someone moving forward. Currently \$25/hr. State dam inspection occurred this year and no major upgrades or repairs were required. No tax involvement for supporting the water district. Funds are appropriated.

Presentation from the **Town Recreation Department** – Tom Frantz. Recreation budget stays at \$17000 for 2018. Some shifts within the programs themselves, but difference has been made up with revolving fund balance. They rely heavily on volunteers.

Discussion at the end of the meeting about having a template for departments so that we have a budget vs actual to look at during discussions. Arch will create one for the future.

Minutes for the Nov. 29 meeting were reviewed and accepted.  
Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.