

1 **Minutes of the Litchfield Budget Committee Meeting**
2 **Held on December 12, 2013 Revised**

3
4 The Litchfield Budget Committee held a meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at Campbell
5 High School, 1 Highlander Court, Litchfield, NH 03052.

6
7 **PRESENT:** R Peeples (Vice Chair), W Spencer, C Pascucci, C Couture, D Vaillancourt, J York
8 (School Board Representative), J Brunelle (Selectmen’s Representative), J Hoch (Town
9 Administrator)

10
11 **Absent:** A Cutter (Chair)

12
13 Mr. Peeples called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

14
15 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

16
17 **2. PUBLIC INPUT**

18 Kerri Douglas, 9 Pleasant Street, thanked the Budget Committee for the time and work they put
19 into the budget process. She thanked Dr. Cochrane and those involved in preparing the District
20 budget. She encouraged the School Board to use more warrant articles. She indicated that the
21 reduction of the AP Statistics course would be well-served on a warrant article as she believes
22 voters should have the opportunity to support it. Mrs. Douglas commented that two areas tend to
23 be impacted most when there are budget reductions: AP students and Athletics. She agreed with
24 the Budget Committee’s belief that the proposed part time GMS computer teacher would be a
25 new position. She commented that repurposing a teacher (changing a job description) is not
26 appropriate as the teacher may not have the skill set to support the necessary responsibilities of
27 the position. Mrs. Douglas commented that the new computer lab is a large addition, which will
28 require future maintenance and upgrades and believes it should be placed on the warrant. She
29 asked that when we get to the point that laptops and tablets for every student is suggested, it will
30 be discussed early in the process. She indicated that voters should have a voice in that decision.

31
32 **3. REVIEW/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

33 Mr. Peeples indicated that additions to the agenda included the re-voting of town budgets.

34
35 **4. PRIOR MEETING MINUTE APPROVAL**

36
37 **MOTION:** by Mr. Pascucci

38 *Move to approve the minutes of December 5, 2013*

39 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

40 **VOTE:** 5-0-2, with Mrs. Couture and Mr. Peeples abstaining

41 **The motion carried.**

42
43 **5. SCHOOL BUSINESS**

- 44
45 • **General Updates**

1 Mr. York reported that the Board will discuss and vote on the LEA Collective Bargaining
2 Agreement after the LEA votes and ratifies the contract. He reported that the School Board
3 began reviewing warrant articles, but may not finalize articles until after January 1.

4
5 Mr. Markiewicz commented that recommendations will be provided for transportation and water
6 increases.

7
8 Mr. York indicated the School Board will vote on the bottom line increases on December 18. He
9 reported that he informed the School Board that the Budget Hearing is scheduled for January 16,
10 2014.

11
12 Mr. Pascucci asked, regarding the teachers' contract, if a tentative agreement is different from a
13 vote on the contract. Mr. York explained that the negotiating teams have reached an agreement,
14 but the LEA must vote on the contract and the School Board must vote on the contract.

15
16 • **Review of Accounts**

17
18 **Warrant Articles**

19 School District warrant articles were deferred.

20
21 • **VOTING**

22
23 **GMS**

24
25 **MOTION:** by Mr. York

26 ***Move to approve the FY15 Recommended GMS Budget of \$470,608***

27 **SECOND:** by Mr. Pascucci

28
29 **MOTION:** Mr. Spencer

30 ***Move to reduce Account 1011241000-430 by \$149***

31 **SECOND:** Mr. Pascucci

32
33 Mr. Spencer indicated this line has never been spent.

34
35 **VOTE: 6-1-0, with Mr. York opposing**

36 **The motion carried.**

37
38 **MOTION:** Mr. Spencer

39 ***Move to reduce Account 1011262000-430 by \$5,000***

40 **SECOND:** by Mr. Pascucci

41
42 Mr. Spencer indicated that he is reducing the sewage pump line item.

43
44 Mrs. Couture asked for the rationale for budgeting for the sewage pump.

45
46 Mr. Markiewicz indicated that there are concerns about the age of the relay.

1
2 Mr. Pascucci commented that repair or replacement of the pump can be funded with the Building
3 and Maintenance Capital Reserve.

4
5 Dr. Cochrane commented that the float switch was replaced one year ago.

6
7 **VOTE: 6-1-0, with Mr. York opposing**

8 **The motion carried.**

9
10 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

11 ***Move to reduce Account 1011262000-622 by \$10,491.88***

12 **SECOND:** by Mr. Pascucci

13
14 Mr. Spencer commented that phase one of the Smart Start contract for GMS should be
15 completed.

16
17 **VOTE: 6-1-0, with Mr. York opposing**

18 **The motion carried.**

19
20 **MOTION:** Mr. Spencer

21 ***Move to reduce Account 1011262000-623 by \$1,753.80***

22 **SECOND:** Mr. Pascucci

23
24 Mr. Spencer believes based on historical data that the line item will be under spent.

25
26 **VOTE: 6-1-0, with Mr. York opposing**

27 **The motion carried.**

28
29 **MOTION:** by Mr. Pascucci

30 ***Move to reduce Account 1011263000-430 by \$700***

31 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

32
33 Mr. Pascucci commented that he reduced the line for power sweeping to once per year.

34
35 **VOTE: 6-1-0, with Mr. York opposing**

36 **The motion carried.**

37
38 **MOTION:** by Mrs. Couture

39 ***Move to reduce Account 1011263000-430 by \$10,000***

40 **SECOND:** Mr. Pascucci

41
42 Mrs. Couture indicated that swales divert surface water and not ground water, which is close to
43 the slab. She believes that funds would be better spent looking at a dehumidification system.

44
45 Mr. Pascucci disagreed with the reduction. He commented that swales remove surface water.
46 He noted there is a ground water problem, but the cost is justified as anything done to maintain

1 assets is important. He indicated if water can moved away from the building it would help. Mr.
2 Pascucci suggested that the funds can be used for dehumidification instead of the swales.

3
4 Mr. Spencer agreed with Mr. Pascucci.

5
6 Mr. Vaillancourt agreed commenting that repairing the swales will help with water run off.

7
8 Mr. Peeples agreed with Mrs. Couture.

9
10 Mr. Pascucci commented that it is better to keep the money in that line to help the school.

11
12 Mrs. Couture agreed that some funding should be budgeted toward a system, but believes that we
13 should not arbitrarily put money in that line. She suggested looking at the studies that were done
14 a few years ago by the Building Committee. Mrs. Couture agreed that the swales need to be
15 maintained. She commented that there are residents in town that have equipment that can
16 perform that work. She suggested asking residents with that equipment for assistance.

17
18 Mr. Pascucci agreed with Mrs. Couture's suggestion. Mr. Peeples commented that engineering
19 knowledge is needed.

20
21 Mr. York commented that the School Board is trying to improve GMS. He indicated that it is up
22 to the voters to decide. He noted that the School Board will ask for assistance from the
23 community. Mr. York commented that the School Board would like projects for GMS moved
24 into the budget. He indicated that the swales project is a start.

25
26 **VOTE: 2-4-0**

27 **The motion failed.**

28
29 **MOTION:** Mr. Vaillancourt

30 *Move to reduce Account 1011263000-430 by \$550*

31 **SECOND:** Mr. Pascucci

32
33 Mr. Vaillancourt commented that he believes there are only a few catch basins at GMS.

34
35 Budget Committee members were not sure how many catch basins are at GMS. Mr. Brunelle
36 commented that reducing the funds without knowing how many catch basins are there does not
37 feel right.

38
39 Budget Committee members asked if the catch basins are cleaned each year. Mr. York indicated
40 he did not have that information. Mr. Spencer looked at the previous year's budget and
41 discovered that catch basins were budgeted at the same amount.

42
43 **VOTE: 5-2-0**

44 **The motion carried.**

45
46 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer

1 *Move to reduce Account 1011272500-519 by \$167.40*

2 **SECOND:** Mr. Pascucci

3 **VOTE: 6-1-0, with Mr. York opposing**

4 **The motion carried.**

5
6 **VOTE ON A NEW BOTTOM LINE FOR THE FY15 RECOMMENDED GMS BUDGET**

7 **OF \$451,795.92: 6-1-0, with Mr. York opposing**

8 **The motion carried.**

9

10 **GMS Salaries & Benefits**

11

12 **MOTION:** by Mr. York

13 *Move to approve the FY15 Recommended GMS Salaries & Benefits Budget of \$3,080,837*

14 **SECOND:** by Mr. Pascucci

15

16 **MOTION:** by Mr. Pascucci

17 *Move to reduce Account 1011110000-110 by \$23,765.31 for a new bottom line of \$937,558*

18 **SECOND:** Mr. Spencer

19

20 Mr. Pascucci commented that the rationale for his motion to reduce the part time computer
21 teacher was based on the 2003 and 2004 warrant articles regarding to new positions, etc.

22

23 Mr. York commented that students need more cognitive technology skills. He indicated that the
24 School Board voted to reduce a grade 2 position and add the part time position based on the
25 needs of the students due to the current direction of technology in the school. He noted that a
26 teacher with technology background is needed to teach that class.

27

28 Mrs. Couture asked what will happen if the students do not have the skills necessary to take the
29 assessment test. Mr. York indicated that students will perform poorly.

30

31 Mr. Vaillancourt commented that 98% of teachers can teach those skills. Mr. York commented
32 that statement is not accurate as teachers instruct the core subjects at that level and are not
33 computer specialists. He noted that if teachers were tasked to teach technology skills to students
34 in the lower grades, it would take time away from the core instruction.

35

36 Mr. Peebles commented that we can move the budget up or down, but we cannot dictate what to
37 teach to schools. He indicated that natural attrition happens and the School Board decided to add
38 a position where that attrition happens.

39

40 Mr. Pascucci commented that according to the 2003 and 2004 warrants this is a new position.
41 He mentioned that on Candidates' Night, three members here said they would support those
42 warrant articles.

43

44 Mr. Spencer agreed with Mr. Pascucci. He noted that the School Board was divided on the view
45 that this is a new position.

46

1 Mr. Vaillancourt encourages students to have technology skills, but believes this is a new
2 position.

3
4 Mrs. Couture commented that this is a new position, but can be justified. She did not believe it
5 fit into the 2003/2004 warrant articles.

6
7 Dr. Cochrane thanked Budget Committee members for support of the position. He commented
8 that he understands the protest and objections and will look forward to making the case at
9 Deliberative Session.

10
11 Mr. Pascucci stated he would be happy to justify the position at Deliberative Session if it were in
12 a warrant article. Mr. Peeples concurred.

13
14 **VOTE: 6-1-0, with Mr. York opposing**

15 **The motion carried.**

16
17 **VOTE ON A NEW BOTTOM LINE FOR THE FY15 RECOMMENDED GMS**
18 **SALARIES & BENEFITS BUDGET OF \$3,057,071.69: 6-1-0, with Mr. York opposing**
19 **The motion carried.**

20
21 **Technology**

22
23 **MOTION:** by Mr. York

24 ***Move to approve the FY15 Recommended Technology Budget of \$424,834***

25 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

26
27 Mr. Spencer commented that they are recommending the hardware that we are associating with
28 computer lab and not the teacher. He indicated that he understood that as long as the lab was set
29 up students will use it regardless of having a teacher to teach the class.

30
31 Mr. York noted that the School Board tasked the administration to provide a three year budget
32 plan so we can present what will be the expected need for technology funding over the next three
33 years. He indicated that the administration will bring a plan to the School Board in March or
34 April so the School Board can have a discussion with the Budget Committee.

35
36 Mr. Peeples commented that Mr. Hancock has taken our discussion to hear as is evident by the
37 forward thinking in the budget.

38
39 Mr. Vaillancourt asked if the same items were budgeted for next year as was budgeted in the
40 prior year.

41
42 Mr. Markiewicz explained that last year much work was performed at LMS. He indicated that
43 there is a new initiative this year and that different items are budgeted from year to year.

44
45 Dr. Cochrane commented that we spent a couple of years investing into server infrastructure and
46 wireless access. He noted that LMS was completed last year as well as wireless access for GMS.

1 He indicated that this year we focused on labs at CHS. Dr. Cochrane commented that we will
2 not need many more thin clients 3-4 years from now. He noted that we will be able to invest in
3 machines for students. He indicated that we will try to have a three year plan completed by the
4 end of March. Dr. Cochrane explained that thin clients replace a significant amount of
5 computers and laptops in classrooms. He noted this allows us to move forward and maintain a
6 lower cost of ownership.

7
8 Mr. Vaillancourt commented that he is supportive of technology, but is cautious regarding how
9 much you give to younger students.

10
11 Mr. York indicated that students have to be literate by grade 3.

12
13 Mr. Peebles commented that mobil infrastructure for devices is a pre-requisite.

14
15 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

16 **The motion carried.**

17
18 **Technology Salaries & Benefits**

19
20 **MOTION:** by Mr. York

21 ***Move to approve the FY15 Recommended Technology Salaries & Benefits Budget of \$170,540***

22 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

23
24 Mr. Vaillancourt asked about the intern salary line. Mr. Markiewicz indicated it is summer
25 position. Dr. Cochrane explained it is the busiest time of the year and this position performs the
26 labor intensive work for the technology department.

27
28 Mr. Spencer asked if the health insurance is for one employee. Mr. Markiewicz indicated both
29 the director and IT technician are eligible for insurance.

30
31 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

32 **The motion carried.**

33
34 Mr. Spencer asked if there is an update of the special education information. Mr. Markiewicz
35 indicated that Mrs. Bandurski received the information today. Mr. York directed that the
36 information be sent to the Chair to distribute.

37
38 Mr. Markiewicz noted that the Behavior Specialist position originally was to provide services to
39 one student. He indicated that currently that position provides services for 15 students. He
40 commented that without the position we would have to contract out for those students.

41
42 Dr. Cochrane indicated that the total cost for contracting for those students would cost
43 approximately \$105,000 - \$115,000, including travel time. Mr. Markiewicz commented that the
44 IRS has taken a hard look at contracted services for public education. He noted that we direct
45 their every move and our expectations and are employees according to the IRS definition.

46

1 Mr. Spencer commented that we need to have a discussion regarding health insurance. Mr.
2 Markiewicz indicated that he has prepared a spreadsheet regarding health insurance and will
3 send it out to the Budget Committee. He noted that a gap variation is evident on what the GMR
4 is to the actual rate. He commented that in 2011/2012 LGC returned money back to their
5 membership and that gap has narrowed substantially.

6
7 Mr. Spencer commented that approximately \$50,000 has been put into the fund balance from
8 health care in past years. He indicated that we have made some global reduction in salaries and
9 benefits in some years. He was hopeful a number can be agreed upon.

10
11 Mr. Spencer asked if the Budget Committee will receive the revenue projections this evening.
12 Mr. Markiewicz indicated that a preliminary projection was done, but he is waiting for some
13 numbers that are in question, specifically building aid.

14
15 Mr. York indicated that the district will receive approximately \$117,000 less in education aid.

16
17 Dr. Cochrane commented that the number for federal grants is a soft number. He indicated we
18 hope to have the projections completed to provide to the Budget Committee on December 17.

19
20 Mr. Spencer commented that the Budget Committee should know the tax impact of this budget,
21 which will influence his vote. He indicated that the last vote for the Budget Committee is
22 December 17. He noted we should have all information so we can vote on the bottom line.

23
24 Mr. Markiewicz explained that a definition for school building aid is needed. He indicated it is
25 being reduced as a result of the reduction of bond and we need some sort of confirmation from
26 the DOE. He noted there was a question regarding federal grant numbers.

27
28 Dr. Cochrane suggested that the Budget Committee plan to meet on December 19 so we can
29 provide revenue projections for the Budget Committee. He indicated that the Budget Committee
30 can have their final vote at that meeting.

31
32 Mr. York commented there will be much coming out of the School Board meeting on December
33 18. He indicated that Mr. Cutter's concerns should be addressed as well.

34
35 Mr. Spencer referred to the explanation provided for the self-funded budget process. He
36 commented that it may be overstated in the taxpayers' point of view.

37
38 Mr. York indicated that the SAU researched the concerns of the Budget Committee and the
39 School Board and discovered that the final steps of applying expenses in the self-funded
40 budgeting process was not occurring. He commented that we believe the process will be
41 managed correctly going forward as expenses were being captured in regular budget accounts.

42
43 Mr. Spencer commented that the current problem is that you are appropriating and showing less
44 expenses than revenue in the operating budget. Mr. Masrkiewicz disagreed.

45

1 Mr. Spencer believes it inflates the operating budget because expenditures are not being
 2 expensed correctly. Mr. York commented that the School Board can address it on December 18.

3 4 **6. TOWN BUSINESS**

5 6 • **General Updates**

7 Mr. Brunelle shared that because of default there are things the town was unable to do. He noted
 8 some examples: the Town Administrator's contract was diverted by five months, maintenance to
 9 the Fire Department was deferred, maintenance to the Town Hall was reduced, town report cost
 10 was lowered. He reported that we received \$26,000 for damages from the February snowstorm,
 11 which created a buffer to the Highway Department. He noted that we secured better salt rates
 12 and negotiated saving to our legal services.

13
14 Mr. Brunelle commented that based on recommendations to the budget by the Budget
 15 Committee, there are costs beyond our control. He noted that \$158,000 needs to be added back
 16 into the budget.

17
18 Mr. Pascucci commented that control is based on decisions that are made. He commented that
 19 the town has had no opportunity to come to the Board of Selectmen to ask for a different process.
 20 Mr. Brunelle commented that residents can come to the meetings of the Board of Selectmen held
 21 on Monday nights or speak at Deliberative Session.

22 23 • **Voting**

24
25 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
 26 *Move to reopen all town budget line items*

27 **SECOND:** Mrs. Couture

28 **VOTE:** 7-0-0

29 **The motion carried.**

30 31 **Executive 4130.10**

32
33 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

34 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4130.10, Executive, of \$108,204 for 2014*

35 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

36
37 Mr. Brunelle indicated that adjustments were added for health and dental insurance.

38
39 **VOTE:** 6-1-0, with Mr. Pascucci opposing

40 **The motion carried.**

41 42 **Town Meeting 4130.30**

43
44 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

45 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4130.30, Town Meeting, of \$8,533 for 2014*

46 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

1 Mr. Brunelle indicated that adjustments were made on actual contract information.

2
3 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

4 **The motion carried.**

5
6 **Town Clerk 4140.10**

7
8 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

9 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4140.10, Town Clerk, of \$94,974 for 2014*

10 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

11
12 Mr. Brunelle indicated that adjustments were added for health and dental insurance.

13
14 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

15 **The motion carried.**

16
17 **Accounting 4150.10**

18
19 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

20 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4150.10, Accounting, of \$198,829 for 2014*

21 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

22
23 Mr. Brunelle indicated that adjustments were added for health and dental insurance.

24
25 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

26 **The motion carried.**

27
28 **Information Technology 4150.20**

29
30 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

31 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4150.20, Information Technology, of \$61,104*
32 *for 2014*

33 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

34
35 Mr. Brunelle indicated that all landline and cell phones were consolidated into one budget.

36
37 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

38 **The motion carried.**

39
40 **Tax Collection 4150.4**

41
42 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

43 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4150.40, Tax Collection, of \$92,664 for 2014*

44 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

45
46 Mr. Brunelle indicated that adjustments were made for health and dental insurance

1
2 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

3 **The motion carried.**
4

5 **Assessing 4152.10**
6

7 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

8 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4152.10, Assessing, of \$49,703 for 2014*

9 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer
10

11 Mr. Brunelle indicated adjustments were made based on actual invoice costs for software.
12

13 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

14 **The motion carried.**
15

16 **Legal Expenses 4153**
17

18 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

19 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4153, Legal Expenses, of \$20,400 for 2014*

20 **SECOND:** by Mrs. Couture
21

22 Mr. Brunelle indicated that legal expenses were revised to accommodate for a decrease in that
23 budget.
24

25 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

26 **The motion carried.**
27

28 **Personnel Administration 4155.10**
29

30 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

31 *Move to approve the bottom line for Account 4155.10, Personnel Administration, of \$470,302*
32 *for 2014*

33 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer
34

35 Mr. Brunelle indicated that other areas were reduced because there are programs we need to run.
36

37 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

38 **The motion carried.**
39

40 **Planning Board 4191.10**
41

42 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

43 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4191.10, Planning Board, of \$54,701 for 2014*

44 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer
45

46 Mr. Brunelle indicated that adjustments were added for health and dental insurance.

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VOTE: 7-0-0
The motion carried.

Zoning Board 4191.30

MOTION: by Mr. Brunelle
Moved to approve a new bottom line for Account 4191.30, Zoning Board of \$666 for 2014

SECOND: by Mr. Spencer

VOTE: 7-0-0
The motion carried.

General Government Buildings 4194.10

MOTION: by Mr. Brunelle
Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4194.10, General Government Buildings, of \$107,089 for 2014

SECOND: by Mr. Spencer

Mr. Brunelle indicated that some accounts were reallocated.

VOTE: 7-0-0
The motion carried.

Town Insurance 4196

MOTION: by Mr. Brunelle
Move to approve the bottom line for Account 4196.9, Town Insurance, of \$59,028 for 2014

SECOND: by Mrs. Couture

VOTE: 7-0-0
The motion carried.

Police Administration 4210.1

MOTION: by Mr. Brunelle
Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4210.1, Police Administration, of \$1,354,513 for 2014

SECOND: by Mr. Spencer

MOTION: by Mr. Spencer
Move to reduce the bottom line for Account 4210.1, Police Administration, to \$1,347,513

SECOND: by Mr. Pascucci

Mr. Spencer indicated the reduction reflects removing \$5,000 from Overtime Training and \$2,000 from Repairs.

VOTE: 3-4-0

1 **The motion failed.**

2

3 **VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION FOR A NEW BOTTOM LINE OF \$1,354,513: 5-2-0**

4 **The motion carried.**

5

6 **Police Support 4210.50**

7

8 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

9 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4210.50, Police Support, of \$143,167 for 2014*

10 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

11 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

12 **The motion carried.**

13

14 **Fire 4220.10**

15

16 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

17 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4220.10, Fire, of \$499,084 for 2014*

18 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

19 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

20 **The motion carried.**

21

22 **Code Enforcement 4241.20**

23

24 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

25 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4241.20, Code Enforcement, of \$76,900 for 2014*

26 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

27 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

28 **The motion carried.**

29

30 **Emergency Management 4290.10**

31

32 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

33 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4290.10, Emergency Management, of \$9,885 for 2014*

34 **SECOND:** by Mr. Pascucci

35

36 **MOTION:** by Mr. Pascucci

37 *Move to reduce the bottom line for Account 4290.10, Emergency Management, to \$9,385*

38 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

39

40 Mr. Pascucci indicated there was a lengthy discussion regarding the stipend for the emergency management director. He commented that it could be construed as a raise for the Fire Chief since he is acting in that role.

41

42 **VOTE: 4-3-0**

43

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46

1 **The motion carried.**

2

3 **Road Agent 4311.10**

4

5 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

6 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4311.10, Road Agent, of \$28,238 for 2014*

7 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

8 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

9 **The motion carried.**

10

11 **Road Maintenance 4312.10**

12

13 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

14 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4312.10, Road Maintenance, of \$575,930 for 2014*

15 **SECOND:** by Mr. Pascucci

16 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

17 **The motion carried.**

18

19 **Solid Waste Administration 4321.10**

20

21 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

22 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4321.10, Solid Waste Administration, of \$358,472 for 2014*

23 **SECOND:** by Mrs. Couture

24

25 Mr. Brunelle commented that maintenance has been reduced and adjustment made for health and dental insurance.

26

27 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

28 **The motion carried.**

29

30 **Parks and Recreation 4520.10**

31

32 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle

33 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4520.10, Parks and Recreation, of \$84,880 for 2014*

34 **SECOND:** by Mr. Spencer

35

36 Mr. Brunelle indicated that telephone has been moved into the Information Technology budget.

37

38 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

39 **The motion carried.**

40

41 **Library 4550.20**

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46

1 **MOTION:** by Mr. Brunelle
2 *Move to approve a new bottom line for Account 4550.20, Library, of \$222,873 for 2014*
3 **SECOND:** by Mrs. Couture

4
5 Mr. Brunelle indicated there are two employees who are eligible for health insurance.

6
7 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
8 *Move to reduce the bottom line for Account 4550.20, Library, to \$220,873*
9 **SECOND:** by Mr. Pascucci

10
11 Mr. Spencer commented we do not have detail from the library. He noted he can accept adding
12 health insurance into the budget, but sees no reason adding back the \$2,000 reduction by the
13 Budget Committee since the Board of Selectmen took no action initially.

14
15 Mr. Brunelle indicated that the Budget Committee reduction was \$1,722 and not \$2,000.

16
17 **MOTION:** by Mr. Spencer
18 *Amend the motion to reduce the bottom line for Account 4550.20, Library, to \$221,151*
19 **SECOND:** by Mr. Pascucci
20 **VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION FOR A NEW BOTTOM LINE OF \$221,151: 5-2-0.**

21
22 Mr. Spencer asked for a total for the new bottom line for the 2014 budget. The new total bottom
23 line at this time is \$5,127,189.

24
25 Mr. Brunelle indicated that there is a difference of \$153,000 between the default budget and the
26 operating budget this year.

27
28 Mr. Peeples commented that the town seemed to get much done this year with the default budget.
29 Mr. Brunelle indicated that there were things that were delayed. He noted that the Town
30 Administrator agreed not to take a raise and all our department heads are efficiency minded. He
31 commended all town staff.

32 33 **7. MEMBER INPUT/NEW BUSINESS**

34
35 Mr. Pascucci agreed that all town employees are doing a great job. He was concerned about
36 spending. He commented that more out of the dollar is expected. He believes that the focus
37 should be on spending as the more that is spent, the more the budget will increase. Mr. Pascucci
38 referred to a statement that the town is run like a business. He indicated that businesses do not
39 run that way and sometimes have to operate within their means. He noted that there are times
40 when tough decisions have to be made. Mr. Pascucci commented in good times budgets,
41 spending and taxes increases. In bad times, spending and taxes increase. He believes that taxes
42 should remain stable.

43
44 Mr. Brunelle commented there are factors that allow us to live in that reduction. He noted the
45 economy is bad, but there are more demands on services (i.e. police). He indicated there are
46 many factors that make up our budget. Mr. Brunelle noted that he understands people want

1 lower taxes, but the town budget is small portion of the tax rate. He indicated that people want
2 services. He commented that Mr. Pascucci and Mr. Guerrette are the only ones who speak out
3 about reducing services.

4
5 Mr. Pascucci commented that there is a little more room in the budget and that the Board of
6 Selectmen lived within a reduced budget.

7
8 Mr. Spencer commented that we have reviewed and voted on the budget and accepted the
9 changes. He indicated that discussion back and forth is fruitless.

10
11 Mr. Pascucci commented that he cannot recommend this budget.

12
13 Mr. Peeples commented that there are costs that are increasing and every commodity we buy has
14 increased. He noted that the town suffers from those same maladies.

15
16 Mr. Spencer commented that he will try to let folks know ahead of time if he is going to propose
17 a reduction. He asked Committee members to review his analysis on handicapped
18 transportation. Mr. Spencer noted he will send out a comparison of what the School Board has
19 asked for health care and what they have spent. He indicated he will propose a \$50,000
20 reduction.

21 22 **8. PUBLIC INPUT**

23 There was no public input.

24 25 • **Upcoming meetings**

26 The next meeting of the Budget Committee will be held on December 17, 2013.

27
28 **MOTION:** by Mrs. Couture

29 *Move to adjourn.*

30 **SECOND:** Mr. Spencer

31 **VOTE: 7-0-0**

32 **The motion carried unanimously.**

33
34 There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

35
36 **Minutes by:** *Michele E. Flynn (Recording Secretary)*

37
38 **Date approved:**