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Budget Advisory Committee Minutes of October 20, 2008

Present: Charlie Pyle, Nick Wilder, Bob Arpin, Henry Kunhardt and Becky Moul.

Meeting opened at 6:55

Reviewed minutes of September 22, 2008. Change CIP to CPI (Consumer Price Index). Henry motions to accept minutes with change. Becky seconded. All were in favor.

Bob brought up that the 10 year average CPI is 2.6. Charlie states that we historically have gone with the yearly CPI which is at 5.5% right now.

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Residents present for Budget Hearings:

Tom Anderson, Betsy Hardwick, Polly Freeze and BJ Carbee.

Cemetery has requested a new date for hearing. Charlie will arrange.

Heritage Commission did not show up.

Conservation Commission: Betsy Hardwick, Conservation chair was present for presentation. The commission has reduced their budget by 26%. Bob Arpin asked why we don't follow the Constitution 28A passage? Betsy explained we follow RS 36A. The commission was voted into existence at Town Meeting, 1965. It is the right of any citizen to bring a warrant before town meeting if they would like to change the way things are done now.

Highway Dept: Gary Paige, Town Road Agent was present for the presentation. He is using the 5 year history formula to figure out hours for all highway employees.

Highway has averaged 347.3 hours of overtime (includes Gary). Per employee for a total of 1042 overtime hours.

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Hours requirements:

1208 hrs for 1 part timer

300 hrs for 4 seasonal plowers

6240 hrs for 3 full timers

Upcoming needs/issues:

Gary reports we need to get serious about our bridges. We have one that structurally unsound (Stewarts Place). Pleasant Pond Rd bridge is next in line for work. The Turnpike bridge still needs to get done. Waiting on water level to go down. With all the rain this year was impossible to do. Betsy indicated the money on the warrant article can be earmarked by the Selectmen to ensure the bridge gets done.

Gary has applied for Federal Funding thru a grant for an open-faced (with arched bottom) culvert. He is waiting to hear.

Charlie to speak with Heritage Commission and Cemetery Trustees on rescheduling their hearings.

Next Meeting is on October 27, at 6:45, at the Town Offices. Hearings to begin at 7:15.

Becky Motions to adjourn, Nick seconds, all were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Moul, Secretary