

John Murray

1/19/08

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To: Paulina Knibbe (comcast); Stephen Barrett
Cc: Board of Selectmen
Subject: RE: Budget questions
Attachments: FW: Draft Protection

-----Original Message-----

From: Paulina Knibbe (comcast)
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2008 12:32 PM
To: John Murray; Stephen Barrett
Cc: Dore' Hunter
Subject: Budget questions

Hello, John and Steve. I am, once again, working on the budget. I have some questions that I hope will be relatively easy for you to answer.

If I can get them today or tomorrow, that would be great. But, I do know that John is out of town so I can also wait until Saturday.

1) If we change the Salary Parity initiative to 100% instead of 105%, how much does that change the budget ?

Approx. \$125,000. While the adjustment factor is 5% the difference in an individual's raise is approx. 28%

2) Is it possible for us to ask for funds for the Senior Center in the fall instead of this spring? The timing of that might be better given that we are just getting started. But I really would like to avoid waiting another year before asking for funding. Does it make a difference if we are willing to fund this part of the project out of NESWC instead of the tax base? (i.e. I believe that we need to pass a balanced budget in the spring so we can't ask for more money from the tax base in the fall. But perhaps we could ask for NESWC money in the fall?? I am assuming that we need to ask for NESWC money since it is in an enterprise fund??)

It is immaterial when one were to ask for NESWC monies from a legal point of view. On the other hand, there are political considerations: (1) we rarely have a fall town meeting and one would not call a town meeting for this one agenda item; (2) Less people tend to attend a fall town meeting -- several implications; (3) Should Annual Town Meeting be provided all spending appropriations so that it does not function with incomplete data; (4) Will the next crisis be solved by the use of NESWC monies being held for this purpose?; Etc.

3) Hayward and Main. The detailed description of this project asked for \$465,000 to cover signalization. The budget only asks for \$100,000.

What would this cover?

The \$100k would cover design only

4) Master Plan Supplement / Community Health Assessment. How much of this is the community health piece? In the detailed part of the budget the supplement is listed as \$80,000 but budget asks for \$120,000. The detailed plan lists the community health portion as \$15,000 but also says that it could be funded from other sources. Regardless the numbers don't add up:

Budget asks for \$120,000
community health - \$15,000

\$105,000

Why is this more than the \$80,000 listed in the detail section ? Is this because we expanded the scope? yes

{A corollary question: what about the funds that were approved for the Master Plan at last spring's town meeting. Is that what we have been using to fund Planner's Collaborative? yes)

5) Where is the description of the item 'Weatherize town building'.
\$90,000. I didn't find this in the detailed section under Municipal Properties. Please see that attached e-mail

6) The ladder truck is listed as \$325,000. Is this something we can bond instead of purchase outright? This seems like a large, long term purchase.

The total expected cost for a ladder truck is \$800,000 and a pumper \$425,000. The original \$325,000 was the bonding cost over 5 years. I now believe we can go 10 years; therefore the revised bonding cost would be \$183,750

7) Snow Blower is listed as \$111,625. Can we bond this, too?

Yes - \$16,750