

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP
February 19, 2014
Meeting Room A**

Present: Norman Needleman
Stacia Libby
Bruce Glowac

Members of the Press
Kelly Sterner
Audience Members

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Public Comment: None

BUDGET REVIEWS:

Ivoryton Library – B53

Susan Nilsen, Wendy Jaillet, Elizabeth Alvord presented. The Town's donation represents 71% of the library's budget. Ms. Nilsen reported the library roof is leaking and needs to be repaired. Mr. Needleman stated there was a 2% increase in the budget and the Selectmen discussed and then proposed changing to a 3% increase.

Essex Library – B53

Richard Conroy presented. The Town currently funds approximately 46% of the library's budget. The library is also doing fundraisers and Claire Matthews is working on membership appeal. He thanked the Town for the 2% increase but would like the 3% even better. The library endowment fund is doing quite well.

Norman thanked both libraries for doing such a great jobs and would do his best to consider the 3% increase request.

Park & Recreation – B22

Bob Russo presented the Park & Recreation General Fund Budget. The clerking payroll item was moved to the general government budget. Tree maintenance and safety was added because there are a lot of old trees and the need for pruning and additional tree removal due to safety issues and concerns. Mr. Russo stated that Viney Hill Park has fixed costs and keeping it open costs approximately \$7,000. The additional funding requested is to add features to improve the area. There was discussion on the commission taking a look at usage over the next year. Mr. Needleman stated that significant enhancements could be requested through sinking funds. The rest of parks have very little change.

There was discussion on the request for additional funding for community events. Mr. Needleman stated that events should be supported by sponsorship, commission members, and volunteers. The Selectmen agreed the line item would be kept at \$10,000. The Park and Recreation Commission would need to decide what events they want to support, how they want to support them, and how they want to use the funds.

Park & Recreation Sinking Fund – B54

Rick Audet presented. Mr. Audet reported that the Asset Inventory in parks have a life span. The original request was \$40,000. Mr. Needleman reported there was a slight increase to the sinking fund to \$32,500 with the goal to move up slightly every year with the goal to get to \$40,000. Private funds were donated for the tennis court fencing and we are lucky and thankful. There is also a Sinking Funds Player Use Fees

Mary Ellen Barnes presented the program revenue fund. There was discussion on increasing the fees for summer camp. There are approximately 50 scholarships available, which is for one week of camp, which is approximately \$6,000 in summer camp fees.

Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) – B45

Susan Maxwell presented. VNA requested a 10% increase in their budget. They are very grateful to the assistance of the Town's support. The insurance costs are expected to be significant next year. The Board of Selectmen agreed to the 10% budget increase if the VNA's come off the Town's insurance. The Town appreciates the efforts of the VNA.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Lucarelli