

**TOWN OF FERRISBURGH
BUDGET SELECTBOARD MINUTES
January 28, 2014**

Members present: Loretta Lawrence-Chair, Sally Torrey, Steve Gutowski, Jim Benoit and Jim Warden

Others present: Chet Hawkins

The Selectboard went through a final review of the budget. It was decided to keep the Bixby Library at the \$39,000 level, which was what was put in the budget last year, not the \$52,559 they were requesting. There was much discussion regarding wages for the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer since there will be 2 separate people in those positions starting in March. It was agreed to allocate \$20,800 for each position and put \$20,000 in the contingency fund so that there will be some flexibility. The Board also discussed using part of the \$230,000 undesignated fund balance to help lower the tax rate. It was agreed to use \$100,000, which will drop the undesignated fund balance to \$130,000, which is close to our 30 day operating costs of \$150,000. With a few other minor changes the budget was finalized for a total of \$1,660,779. That is an increase of \$20,742 (1.3%) over last year.

Other business:

Jim Warden and Jim Benoit shared information regarding their meeting with Hollow Road residents on Thursday, January 23rd, in regard to the "Hollow Road Traffic Study. They felt that it was a good meeting with a lot of positive energy.

The Board discussed the tapping of the maple trees in the town green. It was agreed by the Board to allow the continuation of tapping of the trees, for another year, by Nick Patch and Ferrisburgh Central School. The Board will re-evaluate this request on a yearly basis, based upon the advice and expertise of The Addison County Forrester. The Board chairperson will send a letter to Mr. Patch.

Discussion ensued in regard to delinquent taxes. Jim Warden made the motion to put a new article on the warning that would request that the Town pay the Delinquent Tax Collector a set salary and the fees and commissions would go directly to the Town, not the Delinquent Tax Collector. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. Motion passes 5-0 in favor.

The Board authorized the Chairperson to contact the Town Attorney for the correct language for the legal warning of this new article. The Board set a date for a special meeting to adopt the budget, and any other business brought forth, as **Friday, January 31st, at 4:30 pm**, at the Town Offices.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Pam Cousino
Ass't. Town Clerk