

## **Finance Committee**

### **Minutes**

**February 18, 2016**

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: J. McDermott, J. Burke, J. Denneen, R. Mariani, M. Trudell, J. Lowre, S. Lawson, T. Bowen, J. Stasiukevicius and 7:20 D. Bruce. Members absent were K. Guyette, J. Vaillancourt, P. Hinton, A. Healy, and D. Crowley. Also in attendance was M. Thompson, Finance Director, J. Cuneo, Town Accountant and T. Bailey, Fire Chief.

7:00 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Acting Chairman J. McDermott.

### **FY2017 Spring Annual Town Meeting**

#### **Appointments**

#### **Animal Control – J. Spillane**

J. Spillane, Animal Control Officer - spoke to his budget. There are no changes, budget is basically the same as previous years. Committee had questions on the Equipment Maintenance Contract. He explained that the change from \$350 to \$1400 was due to new software being purchased for dog licenses which is tracking software that is more accurate. Town licenses approximately 1500 dogs/year. On a question from the Committee, he has a scanner for chips for lost dogs. Town is in line with the fees charged by other communities.

**MOTION MADE** by J. Denneen, Seconded by J. Lowre for Favorable Action on the Animal Control Budget in the amount of \$67,626, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

7:20 – D. Bruce, Chairman arrived and assumed chairing the meeting.

#### **Fire Department – Chief T. Bailey**

Chief T. Bailey updated the Committee on the Fire Department Budget. He presented a packet to the Committee on the Department i.e. roster with a breakdown on Fire Department Personnel in each group, incident reports, expense report on vehicles, ambulance receipts, and overtime breakdown. Department is presently in budget and will come back in April with an update on salaries.

Committee discussed the possibility of increasing the number of fire personnel as it was thought that an increase of staff will help reduce overtime. Presently there are eight men on a shift but usually only seven due to vacations, sick etc. Fire Contract requires seven minimum manning, department runs very few days with eight personnel. Chief spoke to the need to hire more than four personnel to help reduce the overtime costs. He is requesting one additional fire fighter beginning in July, 2016.

Discussion on serious issues facing the town, Town is built out, there are serious traffic issues, population is increasing. He would like eventually to get to staffing each shift to eleven (four on the ambulance, seven in the station). If he was to get additional staff, he would revisit opening Station 2. All members are crossed trained. Department needs to build out a staffing plan.

Chief spoke to the possibility of applying for a Safer Grant, which would provide money up front for the first two years, afterwards the Town would own the position and need to have the ability to fund it going forward. Grant covers only salary. Grant can be applied for once a year and applications open February 22. Staffing issue has come up due to the proposed new fire station. Town's population is increasing yearly. New station will be built for current staff with room for expansion of additional personnel. He spoke to the application for a Safer Grant would have to be discussed with Selectmen and follow up with Administration. He doesn't know when you would hear on the Grant. Committee requested additional information on the Grant and a possible time frame. The need is there.

Siemens- Chief doesn't anticipate that the future expansion would increase. They are there a lot presently and do a lot of fire prevention at this facility.

Budget Update – Chief's Contract - He has been under contract with the Town since May, 2015. Expenses – basically only two changes, travel in state and reduction in medical supplies. Under equipment, personnel have been working on a truck for the last couple of years and \$4500 for an ambulance screen.

Las 3 pages (see it is Calls, handled, clinical category).

Budget held - Dan - like to hear more about personnel and overtime plans.

Siemens – down there a lot, doesn't anticipate what they already do. They do a lot of fire prevention there.

MM by J Dennneen as recommended by the Town Administrator in the amount of seconded by Susan 9-0-1) (M. Trudell)

### **Capital Budget Items**

**9,000 for computer system, presently one obsolete, bottle replacement for 25 bottles for breathing apparatus. Oignally received by Grant.** 160 bottles need to be

replaced, phasing in 25 per year/ only good for 15 years. It is a recurring expense, till 2021. fire ear has to be purchased every 10 years. (NFPA)

Ambulance – infusion pumps for medication, 15,000, ambulance stretcher, automated, looking for a lift mechanism (15000) year 17 or 18.

### **Updated schedule**

#### **Monday 22,**

Thursday, 25

MM by susan 2/4/, second by Julie, (8-02 Ron and J. D) (10 voting)

Chapte 70 Resolution (ask Jim) discuss with school.

Unfunded mandates – (susan) how they affect our budget. Nothing happened as a result of the letters. Important to be well versed on subject, these issues keep come up with schools and other departments, need to be familiar with mandates

Ask for the speakers at town meeting, like update.

Send a letters again. Ask for explanation at Town Meeting. Maybe they should be open to a question or two. What legislature would agree to what we want, they would have to fund their own legislation. If they have to fund their mandates, they would have to cut back they aren't goint to do this. We have prop 2 ½, first have to take the mandates and fund those, this is the law, then need to what is left. Or an Operational Override. Mandates can't do anything with.

Susan wite a letter again, cover letter.

Ask them to respond at Town Meeting.

MM by Joe D to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. second by Susan (10-0-0)