

BUDGET COMMITTEE

JANUARY 15, 2013

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and the roll was called.

Budget Committee: B. Manning, Chairman; Bill Huntoon, Ken Jacques, Jon Poston, George McCusker, Jeff Milne, Tim Cook, and John Chiarella. Darrin Patten arrived shortly after roll was called.

Others present: Dick Kipperman, Brandt Denniston, Leigh Callaway, Peter Abair, Bryan O'Day, Tim Julian and Justin Hastings.

Minutes: Ken Jacques moved to approve the January 8, 2013 minutes as written, seconded by Jon Poston and unanimously approved.

B. reported the sign-up period for elections is January 23 through February 1. Terms for Tim Cook and Jon Poston expire this year.

B. noted recent articles in the Concord Monitor reporting on the costs for the state pension program.

Meeting with Departments:

Police Department: Tim Julian, Chief proposes replacing Mike Beaulieu's Crown Vic, a 2006 vehicle purchased and put into service in 2008. There are 88,000 miles on the vehicle. The costs of a new vehicle is \$25,526 with new equipment \$8,698 for a total of \$34,224. The old equipment would come off and be stored and sold to other towns if they have a need for some used equipment. Fleet pricing lowers the cost for new vehicles. There is no trade-in value for Mike's car. Tim proposes a 2013 Police Interceptor Explorer SUV, all-wheel drive. He prefers leasing for 3 years with a \$1.00 buyout at the end. Tim reported newer equipment has less energy demands. Because of the energy demands for the equipment in Mike's existing cruiser, the cruiser has to be kept running most of the time when the equipment is operating. With a new cruiser the fuel line in the budget can be reduced back to level funding.

Tim reported Newport is working toward computer assisted dispatching (CAD). He has applied for a grant for in-car CAD and to keep costs down would share licensing with Newport. If no grant is received he would not do CAD.

Discussion followed regarding financing versus the use of the unreserved fund balance for projects and capital expenditures.

B. asked if the Selectmen know what is happening to the school budget. Leigh reported based on the report at the school meeting the warrant numbers indicated about 7.5% increase to Springfield not including possible changes to teacher and para-educator contracts.

Leigh presented photos of Wilmot's sand shed. Pete Abair, Road Agent stated Wilmot's shed is a block and wood design. Wilmot did theirs for around \$35,000 three years ago. The inside is paved. Pete would recommend 5 blocks high with wood the rest of the way up, 42' x 36' with the posts on the exterior for stability. John Chiarella noted they will need to have an engineer look at the site.

Highway Budget: Pete reported the Selectmen are not approving a chipper. Reclamation of 3/10th of a mile of Town Farm Road is proposed where they grind the existing asphalt and then grade it out and mix with gravel. The road remains gravel and is able to be graded for maintenance. The area in question is located at the bottom of the hill near Howard Road. That area of the road is too far out of shape to consider shim and seal. The rest of Town Farm Road has areas that will have shim and seal, as well as some other roads in town.

He expects to be looking to replace the 2001 white International next year (2014). He would be looking to find a good used truck just as he did this year.

The Board discussed looking into the conservation easement and the possibility of swapping that area to another piece of town-owned property if the State would approve. The idea was to look into good sight planning and to see if there was a place where the sand shed could be built into a bank. Sand and Salt and the loader could be kept in that area making more room around the existing building. John Chiarella recalled that the Conservation Easement was a requirement of the State before the construction of the highway/safety complex, due to the creation wetlands that took place during logging on the property back then. Suggestion to swap the conservation easement to the cemetery land under the power lines which is all ready wet and the land can't be used anyway.

Fire Department: Pete Lacaillade, Fire Chief; Kevin Roberts, Deputy Chief; and Jack Hedges, Captain, met with the Board. Jack provided the board with background information as to existing fire department apparatus. The new vehicle they are looking at is a Ford 550, 4-door chassis with a fire body and will replace the rescue vehicle. The rescue vehicle houses all the rescue equipment and supplies needed for medical calls. They do not have exact numbers but estimate a cost of around \$130,000. They anticipate the life expectancy of this vehicle to be 20 years.

The next fire truck to be replaced would be the 1993 tanker within the next 5-8 years. Pete stated they are working on developing a schedule for equipment replacement.

Kevin reported the SCBA's are also a high dollar replacement item to consider in the vehicle rotation and cost schedule. The existing equipment was purchased all at once in 2004 with a grant, so the equipment will outdate all at once. Replacement would need to take place in the

next 5-6 years. Changes with valves and connections makes phasing the SCBA equipment a few pieces at a time problematic. Grants for this are harder to get now.

The department has increased the budget request for turn-out gear. With the amount of fire department members, replacing two-sets of gear a year does not keep the department ahead of the replacement requirements for all the active members.

Jack noted the alternator in the rescue van can't keep up with the load of the equipment needing to remain charged. The equipment has to be charged on the wall not in the vehicle. If the vehicle can't respond, the equipment has to be pulled and put on another truck. In 2011 the rescue vehicle was out of service for 40% of the 30 EMS calls, and for two EMS calls in 2012. Members spend a lot of time keeping the truck running. The department does not have good numbers as to the costs to repair each vehicle but plan to start keeping track of those costs this year. The department has solicited bids from 5 vendors.

B. stated his concern with upcoming costs the town is looking at. He has no opposition to the fire department and their needs; it is the costs and the projected costs he has concern with.

Pete reported the fire hydrant replacement line has been dropped back down to \$5,000. They plan to do some work on the hydrant at McDaniel's Marsh this year, and do more research and planning for the hydrant on Stoney Brook Road.

Brandt stated the Capital Improvements Program will project 6 years ahead but can also provide the cycle time for the replacement of vehicles to keep ahead of that.

B. stated the replacement of 3 sets of gear a year makes sense. He would like the department to project some costs for replacement of the tank truck and breathing apparatus. The Board agreed to begin their January 29th meeting at the fire station at 7:00 p.m. The meeting there will be open to the public. When they are finished there, the meeting will reconvene at the town office.

The Board reviewed appropriations for the operating budget line items that were not available at the last meeting.

John reported that the Selectmen had voted to support the application for a grant for wetlands mapping.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts