

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**JANUARY 16, 2017**

**MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**7:00 P.M.**

*The following are to be considered draft minutes until approved by the Board.*

Present: Ken Jacques, Chairman; Tamara Butcher, Bill Huntoon, B. Manning, Jeff Milne, Justin Hastings, Bryan O'Day, Tim Cook and Darrin Patten.

Others: Leigh Callaway and department representatives.

Minutes of January 2, 2017: Page 1, Ken corrected – Rob Thorp is the Superintendent of the New London Springfield Water Precinct, not the Manager. Jeff moved to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Darrin. 8 in favor. Bryan abstained.

Library: Joyce Guinther, Trustee and Jennifer Carson, Library Director. Jennifer gave report of the increases in library services this year. There is a lot going on and plans for more programs. The budget is up a little to cover costs for advertising and to continue to build programs. The library was awarded a CLiF grant through the Children's Literacy Foundation, of \$5,000 for new children's books. Jen has plans for a second mini-grant to have a discovery table. The book collection has all been cataloged. The catalog is available online. Joyce Guinther, reported the trustees are discussing interior renovations and have plans to modify the circulation desk, and add a librarian's desk. They plan to send out fund-raising letters, and apply for grants, if available.

Ken extended appreciation to Jen and Joyce for their enthusiasm, and thanked them for their presentation.

Police Department: Chief, Tim Julian reported there is not much change in his proposed budget. Both vehicles are working out well. The Capital Improvement Plan indicates vehicles being replaced every 5 years. He has been able to get more like 6-7 years out of them. The next vehicle replacement is 2019. He is happy with the services of Newport Dispatch. The department has been investigating the use of body cams. If he decides to purchase, he would be looking for grant funding.

Highway Department: Road Agent, Peter Abair reported he is recommending \$85,000 in the shim and paving line. He plans to pave George Hill from McDaniel's Marsh to the Enfield Town Line. He has a quote of \$83,200 for that. The rest of the paving money would be patch and repair. He plans to ditch, change culverts, and remove rocks before paving takes place. There are no significant increases in his budget.

Selectman Leigh Callaway reported there has been discussion regarding building a sand shed where the sand is currently being stored. This would be done using waste blocks and trusses. The estimated cost is \$38,000. Leigh gave a presentation of possible other locations that have been discussed, and scored the criteria assigned to each location. His scoring showed the existing location to be the most feasible. The Board discussed short-term versus long-term

solutions, environmental issues, location, feasibility and costs. Jeff noted the information Leigh put together is a good base to look at the options. Pete Abair noted he is in favor of a sand shed in the current location. The Board thanked Pete and Leigh for the presentation.

Fire Department: Fire Chief, Pete Lacaillade, Kevin Roberts, and Alex Moskalenko. Pete reported the department moved funds around to balance discrepancies in line items. There is no increase in the proposed operating budget.

Ken Jacques Rob Thorp was able to do some preliminary tests on the water at the fire department. Rob will make arrangements to do more complete testing and make suggestions for mitigation.

Pete Lacaillade reported the deadline for appropriating money for the SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) is 2019. There are 10 packs to replace at a cost of \$7500 each, plus the cost of other equipment and accessories that must go along with the update. The estimated cost for replacement in 2019 is \$100,000.

The Fire Department members discussed details for replacement of the 1982 tanker. NFPA standard information was shared for the board to review. The tanker is 25 years old. Tanker life is between 20 and 25 years as a frontline piece. After 25 years it becomes a reserve piece. The tanker has reached the point where it has aged out as a front-line piece of equipment. The department has investigated replacement costs. Estimates are between \$237,000 and \$240,000. Pete explained NFPA specifies safety equipment needed on new trucks. Members discussed the schedule in the Capital Improvement Program is to allow rotation of equipment so as not to stack major equipment purchases together. Standards for engine replacement and the age of frontline equipment was reviewed. At some point the rescue truck would be needed to be considered for replacement. The current tanker is serviceable, and has low mileage, but has reached the end of service life for a frontline piece. Replacing now has been part of the plan for several years, and puts it in the rotation without stacking replacements of other equipment. A tanker would add capabilities to enable the department to keep engines for 30 years.

Leigh reported the Selectmen are in favor of a tanker replacement. Financing locally is at 2.55%.

The Board discussed the use of the existing trucks, life-span, replacement scenarios and various options, and whether it is too soon to replace the tanker as it is not being replaced because it is worn out or has excess mileage. B. noted he attended the Fire Department meeting with E-One. There was a lot of discussion about program trucks but they sell at a lot higher expense. The fire department is well versed in what the needs are and has done a good job of downsizing customization.

Pete L. asked the Board if they supported this purchase. A couple members indicated they did not feel the equipment needed replacing now. The board agreed they would like to look at a

larger picture, and review a timeline for engine replacement. The Fire Department was asked to come to the meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> with those scenarios.

The Board reviewed Executive, Cemetery, and Grounds and Buildings proposed budgets. Darrin questioned the need to replace all of the garage door openers on the fire/highway garage. Leigh noted that he would make an adjustment to that request as only some of the door openers need replacement. There were no further questions.

Leigh noted, for the record, the Selectmen are on record of supporting the replacement of the tanker now. The timing is right in to keep the bottom line of the budget level. The debt on the highway truck ends in July. If a tanker is purchase this year, payments would be finished before another truck is scheduled for replacement. He is concerned with a big spike in the budget down the line.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,  
Administrative Assistant