

## BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2019

Members Present: Ron Schneider, Marisa Caputo, Brian Toomey, Russ Markgren, Richard DeBold, Bill Wade, Bob Subilia, Alternates Jim Gaylord and Suzie Finnell

Staff Present: Town Manager Jon Carter, Finance Director Jodie Sanborn, Accountant Casey Welch, Fire Chief Wayne Vetre, Meeting Recorder Cinndi Davidson

Bob Mulcahy, applicant for the Budget Committee

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

1. Minutes: Motion to accept the January 23, 2019 minutes as written. Passed unanimously.
2. Budgets and CIP to Review

**-Fire Municipal Budget:** The expected completion date for the new building is August. A major budget item is Vehicles. Corrosion and aging are a big factor. Major maintenance jobs for the trucks are done at Scarborough Public Works saving us 50% of the previous labor charge. The front line vehicles have more mileage and need more maintenance than the call trucks. We do mandatory annual pump testing and follow it with preventive maintenance. We have a mobile device for under carriage washing and Scarborough does a similar flushing each spring.

Overtime is up, and there was a question about staffing levels. With the Garcia Law for firefighters, we pay less at this level than if fewer people were working more hours. Growth in Town was discussed and we are looking to attract more call coverage. Eventually we may need to hire more firefighters. Three staffing plans were discussed: improving the pay for the call force, adding full-time people during daytime hours, and using students from the SMCC fire science program to live-in and work at the new building when they aren't in school.

The medical line includes pads and batteries for the defibrillators. The air packs are aging and need testing and repairs. Turn out gear has a 10 year life and requires repairs and cleaning. The fire prevention trailer is part of the outreach to the schools and community events.

Motion by Brian, seconded by Russ, to approve \$310,100. Passed 7-0.

**CIP:** The pole and sprinkler system were pulled. There is a 1 year lead time to order a new ladder truck. Once we receive the truck we transfer all the equipment that still has a reasonable life span from the older truck. The combination pumper/ladder truck is more useful and gives us a better ISO rating and lower insurance premiums. The 85' ladder is for reach as well as height and is used for rescues and elevated ventilation.

Utility 9 is a 2005 vehicle used for calls, fire drills and inspections and is close to the end of its useful life. WinXNet is removing the third party software from the new workstations and making sure they are compatible with the existing ones. The copier will be added to expenses for 2020. The SCBA air packs have a 15-20 year life. The packs are easily adjusted in the field. Each bottle contains 30 minutes of air and there is an alarm at the 10 minute level. They must be rapidly deployable in the field. The crews carry a lot of replacement bottles so they don't have to refill them at a fire scene. The fill station at the fire station is not deployable to the field. The turn out gear is approaching 10 years and will go out to bid. NFPA is a national standard; it isn't a law, but the Town risks civil liability if there was a catastrophic event.

**-EMA:** Operating supplies are up. Back up plans are needed for power outages and communications failures. A major item is food for people at warming and sheltering stations. A 72 hour supply is kept on hand for staffing and evacuees. Funding from MEMA decreased in recent years. An emergency call is made jointly by the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Town Manager and Selectmen.

Motion by Russ, seconded by Marisa, to approve \$80,200. Passed 7-0.

**-Conservation Commission Municipal Budget:** Posters and maps of Town properties have been printed and will be on display at Town Hall, the Chamber of Commerce and other locations. Smaller brochures will be available. Two interns are putting the information on social media. There is a trail boss now.

Motion by Bob, seconded by Russ, to approve \$5,000. Passed 7-0.

**CIP:** The Commission is asking for \$100,000 for the land bank. The Getchell parcel has cottontail habitat. One abutting parcel is a house lot which will provide parking. The Commission's goal is to obtain larger pieces with more biodiversity and a better gene pool. Future plans include a bridge over the Merriland River to access The Heath. The Harbor Trail was done as a partnership with Wells Reserve.

**Police Municipal Budget:** The budget is up because of the new building, associated expenses and vehicle replacement. Two officers are assigned to each car, and the mileage is about 100 miles per shift or 200 miles per day. The cars are downgraded as their mileage increases. There are about 400 arrests per year, mostly for domestic violence. Maintenance for the new building, library and train station is planned for 2 people at 20 hours per week.

Motion by Ron, seconded by Russ, to approve \$568,850. Passed 7-0.

Bill asked about revenues. The schools reimburse for salaries for the SRO's. The department is paid for officers attending DMV hearings and outside details such as games and directing traffic.

Motion by Brian, seconded by Bill, to approve \$89,100. Passed 7-0.

**CIP Snow Removal:** for equipment to clear narrow spaces around the new building. This benefits both the Police and Fire Departments.

**CIP-Radio Tower:** This will serve the Police and Fire Departments, WEMS and Public Works. An 180' tower is planned at YCCC, an 85' tower at the new station and a 250' tower at the Public Works garage behind the substation. This is a safety issue for the Town, and the worst coverage is at the beach, Mile Road and Hannaford Plaza. The 3 tower system seems to be the best approach. For 3 towers we are looking at \$521,500 in and \$623,000 out. Last year \$101,500 was funded so \$241,500 from surplus is needed to complete the project.

**Dispatch Municipal Budget:**

Motion by Ron, seconded by Richard, to approve \$136,630. Passed 7-0.

**Animal Control Municipal Budget:**

Motion by Ron, seconded by Brian, to approve \$16,150. Passed 7-0.

**Beach Enterprise Municipal Budget:** Parking fees are going to hourly instead of daily and half day. There is more turn-over at the meters. 6,000 beach parking stickers will be sold with a \$5 increase for an additional \$30,000.

**3. Adjourn**

Motion by Brian, seconded by Richard, to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by,

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Jodie L. Sanborn,  
Finance Director

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Ronald Schneider, Jr.  
Budget Committee Chairman