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**BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 15, 2015**

Members Present: Carl Hagstrom, Virginia Doerpholz, Martin Nolan, Natasha Michelson, Ben Thomas, Fred Wilkinson, Win Wright, and Selectmen's Representative, Nancy Carney.

Mr. Hagstrom convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The members received all the department budgets that had been submitted to date and organized them into their budget books.

Mr. Nolan made a motion to nominate Mr. Hagstrom as Chair and Mr. Wright as Vice-Chair. Ms. Doerpholz seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wright made a motion to appoint Mr. Nolan to serve on the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) Committee. Ms. Michelson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The members reviewed the schedule and reviewed the Fire, Ambulance and the Emergency Management budgets.

Ms. Carney reviewed the Fire Department budget. Ms. Carney shared that the Board of Selectmen hired MRI to do a wage and salary study and to review job descriptions. As a result, there were some title changes and wage increases, which have been spread out over more classifications for the department. Ms. Carney shared that the Fire Department is not in the wage scale and the Board of Selectmen presented the Fire Department, Ambulance and Emergency Management, with their own scale and it is being reviewed by the Board of Fire Wards. As a result, the Fire Department budget request reflects possible changes in salary.

Ms. Carney reported that last year there were 317 calls, 318 for the prior year and 313 calls so far this year. Ms. Carney shared that she has no idea why there has been an increase in calls and discussed how Fitzwilliam and Troy handle automatic aide.

Mr. Wilkinson asked about wages and Ms. Carney shared that it becomes better aligned with other local towns and that the new wage scale was not adopted by the Board of Fire Wards when it was adopted by other departments, effective October 1, 2015.

Mr. Hagstrom asked if the \$5,000 increase in Line 120 - Salaries was enough and Ms. Carney stated yes. Ms. Carney shared that there are 20 members and a couple of them are new.

Mr. Hagstrom asked if there were other changes and Mr. Wilkinson mentioned that with the increase of \$5,450 to Lines: 120 - Salaries, 220 - Social Security and 225 - Medicare, the budget still decreased and asked about the expendable trust. Ms. Carney stated that she didn't know the amount of funds spent but shared that \$2,000 would be put back into capital outlay. Ms. Carney talked about the cost of training and the class schedule. Mr. Nolan asked if the State Instructors

were still certified and Mr. Wright shared that Rindge had one instructor left and the other instructors were trying to determine if it was worth the effort to be recertified.

Ms. Carney reviewed the Ambulance budget. Mr. Hagstrom asked if it was hard to get people to make calls and Ms. Carney shared that it was hard for her as she is also trying to complete her required Paramedic training hours. Ms. Carney shared that Troy answers re-tones (doesn't have a very large crew) and Diluzio Ambulance also answers.

Mr. Hagstrom mentioned that the equipment purchase and repair line item was cut by a large amount and Ms. Carney shared that EMS Association received a charitable donation and funding for a new cardiac monitor was in CIP. Ms. Carney also shared that she wrote a grant for a new cardiac monitor (which costs \$42,000) last year but hasn't heard anything. The charitable donation from the Estate of Joe and Ruth Tartiff to organizations in town and through a group purchase with other towns in the Monadnock area, made it possible to purchase a new cardiac monitor at a discount rate. Ms. Carney reported that the money was taken out of CIP for this year but would leave what was in the expendable trust.

Ms. Carney stated that the ambulance is in really good shape and that once the Board of Selectmen hold a Public Hearing to accept a piece of equipment, the cardiac monitor could be put into service.

Ms. Carney reviewed the EMT budget. Ms. Carney reported that there was an increase in Line 120 - Part-Time Salaries of \$500 for the Deputy EMT Director, who is also the Health Officer and also in charge of the Shelter. Ms. Carney shared that Carole Ann Rocheleau doesn't put in for mileage and she attends a great number of local meetings and some out of town. Ms. Carney hopes to finish the Shelter and make it handicap accessible with funding from the General Government Buildings fund, as there are no grants for this.

Ms. Carney discussed the safety issues that have been identified as a result of the proposed pipeline route and the unknown budget implications.

Mr. Wright serves on the Monadnock School Board Budget Committee and he shared that Fitzwilliam would get more money back from the State.

It was mentioned that the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee reviewed the Year-to-Date Expenditure Report and noted that departments were on track.

There being no further business, at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Hagstrom made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Nolan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Sheryl White  
Secretary