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BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 22, 2015

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

Members Absent: Ben Thomas

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

7:00 - Fire and Ambulance Budget:

Bill Prigge presented the Fire Department budget.

Line 120 – Salaries - Part-Time – The budget increase of \$5,000 reflects the change in the wage scale. The Board of Fire Wards has not made a decision as yet. Mr. Prigge shared that the salaries were below the Jr. Recreation salaries and historically, have not been included in the wage scale. The wage scale was based on the number of calls and separated out based on longevity.

Line 350 – Medical Services - reduced by \$150. Ms. Carney reported that this covers physicals for incoming new members and is done by OHM at Cheshire Medical Center. Ms. Carney stated that the money hasn't been utilized because physicals were current and didn't need to be done.

Line 357 – Radio/Radar Maintenance - reduced \$450. Ms. Carney stated that the warranty on the equipment covers most of the repairs.

Line 430 – Repairs/Maintenance – expended money on remotes for garage doors that was not budgeted.

Line 560 – Dues/Subscriptions – no change.

Lines 610 - General Supplies – reduced by half to \$250.

Line 620 – Office Supplies – no change.

Line 628 – Office Equipment – reduced to \$500.

Line 629 – Equipment Purchases – no change.

Line 630 - Equipment Maintenance/Repair – reduced by \$4,800 because an expendable trust was created last year.

Line 635 – Gasoline – increase of \$100. Ms. Carney stated that even though gas prices are down, ambulance calls are up. Ms. Carney shared that power tools, including the generator run on special gas and they buy it in 5 gallon pails and as a result the tools last longer.

Lines 636 – Diesel Fuel, 661 – Tires, 684 – Uniform Purchase/Clean - no change.

Line 660 – Vehicle Repairs – reduced by \$2,500.

Line 870 - Training – reduced by 2,000.

Mr. Prigge reported that the Operating Budget is down by \$6,600 to \$47,200 from last year's approved budget of \$53,800.

Mr. Prigge stated that \$5,000 was added to the expendable trust for SCBA and would like to add \$1,700 for equipment and repair in order to bring the repair fund back up to \$5,000.

Mr. Prigge reported that the overall budget of \$73,900 was an increase of \$5,100.

Mr. Nolan asked about Line 430 – Repairs/Maintenance. Ms. Carney reported that it was used to purchase new remotes for the new doors and instead of coming out of the General Government Buildings fund – half was charged to Fire and half to Ambulance budgets.

Mr. Nolan reported that CIP was recommending Line 740 – SCBA – minitors, radios – be funded at \$10,000, and Equipment/Maintenance expendable trust – be increased so that the bottom line would be 6,000 – this year proposing \$2,700.

Ms. Carney reported that with federal grants we are not allowed to use funds that have already been appropriated. If grants come in, we wouldn't appropriate money in future years.

Mr. Prigge reported that the expendable trust was at \$7,080. Mr. Nolan stated adding \$10,000 instead of \$5,000 for a total of \$78,900.

Bill Prigge presented the Ambulance budget.

Line 357 – Radio/Radar Maintenance – reduced to \$250.

Mr. Prigge reported that there was no change to Line 440 – Rentals/Leases and Ms. Carney shared that the lease was for oxygen tanks.

Mr. Hagstrom asked if they were waiting until next year to buy the door remotes and Mr. Prigge shared that they were already purchased.

Mr. Prigge reported that 2 laptops and software had already been purchased and the Supplies – 600 Series - was reduced by \$2,750.

Line 830 – Training – reduced by \$500 and the overall request for funding was \$31,900.

Ms. Carney reported that the \$2,000 on Line 740 – Machinery/Equipment wasn't asked for a last year's Town Meeting due to the charitable donation from the Estate of Joe and Ruth Tartiff. A cardiac monitor and 2 defibrillators were purchased and the cardiac monitor would go into service on November 1st, once the Board of Selectmen approve.

Line 760 - Vehicles - requesting \$5,000 - don't need to put money away for some time – have a Trust – half put towards operations and half for purchasing a new ambulance – request \$26,900 – no Capital Outlay for the ambulance.

Mr. Wilkinson stated that the Year-to-Date expenditures are at half of the budget. Ms. Carney replied that they try to keep medical expenses down but the calls are out of control. There were 317 calls last year, 318 for the prior year and 330 calls so far this year. Medical supplies had to be replenished and they try to be frugal. There is not a lot of maintenance with the new ambulance, crew keeps on top of things and sometimes they ask the Association to purchase things. Ms. Carney reported on the change regarding inspections.

Mr. Nolan asked why a person would want to join the Fire Department and Mr. Prigge replied that it is in his blood and he can't answer for anyone else. Mr. Nolan shared that he thought that was what the Fire Department was always for and now we are looking at salaries – looking for an income generation. Mr. Prigge shared that now we don't have Tommila's, Troy Mills, or Kingsbury's. Mr. Nolan shared that there was a time when they didn't get paid, that it was a privilege. Mr. Prigge shared that he thinks people should be rewarded, not as though paying \$20-30 per hour. Mr. Nolan asked if rank and file was demanding this and Mr. Prigge replied “not that I heard of”. Ms. Carney shared that the wage scale didn't come from the Board of Fire Wards that it came from the Board of Selectmen.

7:30 - Emergency Management Budget:

Ms. Carney presented the Emergency Management budget.

Ms. Carney reported that the only increase was \$500 - Line 120 – Part-Time Salaries - for the Deputy EMT Director. Ms. Carney shared that Carole Ann Rocheleau attends a great number of local meetings and some out of town and she doesn't put in for mileage.

Ms. Carney reported that she hoped to use some of the General Government Buildings fund to replace the roof but things have changed and there are things that need to be done at the Shelter. Meadowood Assembly Hall is still the Shelter and it is near the proposed pipeline's incineration zone, as is the VFW which is the other Shelter and it is even closer to the proposed pipeline.

Ms. Carney discussed safety issues that the proposed pipeline route would have on the Town and Ms. Carney stated that because the actual route of the pipeline is still unknown, it is difficult to determine the budget implications and so the only increase was to Line 120 – Part-Time Salaries.

Members reviewed Land Use and Recreation budgets for next week's appointment.

Mr. Hagstrom asked that Tom Parker be invited to come in next week and give an update on the Monadnock Regional School District budget. Mr. Hagstrom asked Ms. White to contact Mr. Parker and invite him to next week's meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Mr. Hagstrom asked members to review the minutes of last week's meeting.

Mr. Wright shared that both Tom Parker and Wendy Martel serve on the School District's Budget Committee and maybe Ms. Martel would like to come in as well. Mr. Hagstrom asked that Ms. Martel be invited.

Mr. Wright made a motion to approve the October 15, 2015 Minutes. Mr. Nolan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Land Use budget was reviewed and Mr. Hagstrom thought there would be questions regarding Line 110 – Full-Time – Salaries - it relates to number of hours worked. Ms. Michelson shared that it could be due to the new wage scale and that the expended salary line was down. Ms. Favreau reported that Ms. Gillis had taken some time off and that was why it was down for this year.

Ms. Carney shared that there is an explanation on the third page and the new wage scale put the salary up .04 cents per hour and Mr. Nolan stated that it doesn't really affect the budget.

Mr. Nolan asked about the increase of \$308 on Line 620 – Office Supplies. Mr. Nolan stated that they didn't get as much this year and the request is double the amount. Ms. Michelson shared that printing the big maps was very expensive and Mr. Nolan stated that he doesn't know if that comes out of this budget and shared that it couldn't because only \$98 has been spent and the pipeline information is provided to the Town.

Line – 550 – Printing – increased to \$300. Mr. Hagstrom stated that printing was expensive and Committee Members agreed.

Mr. Hagstrom stated that Committee Members could ask that question next week and asked if there were other things to mark for next week's discussion.

Mr. Nolan stated that the increase of \$200 on Line 825 – Mileage/Travel Expense seemed a little high and Mr. Hagstrom shared that you have to travel back and forth to Keene to get printing. Mr. Wilkinson stated that the budget request was 1% more than last year.

Mr. Hagstrom asked what the mileage rate was and Ms. Favreau reported that it was .575 cents per mile. Mr. Nolan shared that unless you know where the travel is, it is hard to calculate.

Mr. Hagstrom asked if there were any other questions regarding the Land Use budget.

Recreation budget was reviewed and Ms. Carney shared that there was a list of explanations by line item on the last page.

Mr. Hagstrom asked if a letter had been received from Fairpoint stating that they would begin charging for turning the phone off – seasonally.

Mr. Wright wanted to know the reason why Line 410 – Electricity was high. The explanation noted on page 3 was that the pump in the Pole Barn was accidentally turned on this past winter and ran the electric bill up.

Ms. Carney shared that the Recreation Department would like to have lights this winter for ice skating.

Ms. Michelson asked about trail grooming and Ms. Carney shared that it was clean up and not grooming. Ms. Michelson thought it would be hard to find someone to groom.

Committee Members agreed that things can happen and that it was no ones fault. They discussed whether there was something that could be done to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Mr. Hagstrom asked if there were any other questions.

Mr. Hagstrom asked Ms. White to contact Mr. Parker and Ms. Martel to meet with Committee Members next week at 8:15 p.m.

There being no further business, at 7:55 p.m. Mr. Hagstrom made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Doerpholz seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by;

Sheryl White
Secretary