

# BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

## January 27, 2022

**Members Present:** Carl Hagstrom, Andrew Wood, Ben Thomas, Virginia Doerpholz, Phyllis Peterson, Winston Wright, Brian Doerpholz, Selectman's Representative, & Debbie Favreau, Town Administrator

**Members Absent:** Martin Nolan

**Guests:** John E. F. Craig, Brandy Mitchell & Chief Leonard DiSalvo

Mr. Hagstrom opened the meeting at 7 pm and asked members to review the minutes.

**Minutes:** Ms. Peterson made a motion to accept the minutes of Jan 20, 2022 as written with a second by Ms. Doerpholz. All voted in favor (6-0-0)

**Police:** The committee members had asked Chief DiSalvo to return to further explain some items in his budget. The Chief provided a 3-year salaries and benefits comparison. The increases in his budget are mostly in salaries with step increases and the 3.75% COLA. Mr. Thomas would like to know how much time is spent on certain tasks, like patrolling, paperwork, court etc. Mr. Wood questioned if the budget was too big, or maybe not big enough. Ms. Peterson asked if all departments, not just the Police, are in line with other comparable towns. This is taxpayer money and the budgets consistently go up. Chief DiSalvo stated it is hard to compare with others towns, as Fitzwilliam's population increases by about 2000 people during the summer months. Mr. Hagstrom asked if there was a need for 24/7 coverage. Chief DiSalvo stated there have been talks for many years, but it would be very expensive with the full time salaries and benefits. The Chief also provided a listing of the number of each type of calls handled in town during 2021, some being very serious. Mr. Wood commented that all departments have increased hugely in the last 5 years and just wants to know if the increases are justifiable. Chief DiSalvo noted that he feels this discussion was based upon some personal issues Mr. Nolan has with the Police Department. His statement is in reference to the motion made by Mr. Nolan and seconded by Ms. Peterson on January 27, 2022 to reduce the Police budget by \$10,000. Mr. Wright made a motion to accept the budget of \$460,055 with a second by Mr. Thomas. All voted in favor (6-0-0).

Mr. Wright made mention of the upcoming school deliberative session on February 5, 2022 and how important it is to have Fitzwilliam represented. He noted that one could find information on the proposed articles on the MRDS website.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Minutes submitted by Marion Wheeler