

Newington Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2006
Town Hall

Present: Chairman Alfred Smith, Dennis Acton, Candice Cantalupo, Gail Klanchesser, Larry Wahl, Rick Stern, Russ Cooke, Dick Spinney, Leslie Brock, Helen Maldini, Selectman Representative Jack O'Reilly, Police Chief Jon Tretter, Police Commissioner Jack Hoyt, Administrative Asst. Beatrice Marconi and Barbara McDonald

Meeting was called to order at 7pm.

Minutes Approval

Gail Klanchesser moved to accept the revised minutes of January 4. *Motion seconded by Jack O'Reilly, motion passed.*

Larry Wahl moved to accept the minutes of January 11 with corrections. *Gail Klanchesser, motion passed.*

Highway Budget

Larry Wahl moved to accept the budget request of the Highway Department in the amount of \$287,907.00, of which \$56,657.00 is in encumbered funds. *Jack O'Reilly seconded*, Chairman Smith called for a vote, *motion passed.*

Police Budget

Larry Wahl moved to accept the Police Budget in the amount \$1,138,725.00. Seconded by Gail Klanchesser. Jack O'Reilly spoke of the stipends and how the Selectmen are looking at approximately a 25% increase across the board. Jack feels if the Budget Committee will entertain the thought, another \$375.00 should go to the bottom line which will bring the Animal Control Officer's stipend more inline with the others.

Chairman Smith viewed his thought by stating he personally felt stipends should be comparable as the employees @ 4.7%. Jack briefed the Committee on the Treasurer's stipend history on \$4,000.00 vs. \$5,000.00 Budget Committee recommendation. Gail asked about the volume of calls the Animal Control Officer answers vs. the volume the Police Department handles. Chief Tretter did not have the answer on hand. Gail Klanchesser goes on to state that she works (ed) part time at the Rockingham Sheriff's office and when she gets an animal control issue, she has to call it into a police cruiser due to the fact that the Animal Control officer is often unreachable. She states that she basically wants to know who is handling the Animal Control issues, the Police Department or the Animal Control Officer. Gail also states that she wonders if the work is being performed by the Animal Control Officer is worth such a large increase in the stipends. Dick Spinney asked about the increase they gave a few years ago with the West Nile. Gail Klanchesser was not in favor of the stipends increasing and felt the Treasurer should get more than Animal Control Officer. Chief Tretter states that the Animal Control Officer keeps a record of the calls that she goes out on. Dick Spinney added that a few years ago when the bird West Nile issue occurred stipends increased then due to the

fact that she have to pick up dead birds and also stated that she said that she can't do it anymore.

Chairman Smith explained the Outside Detail and how it must be appropriated yet it's returned through private entries.

The warrant article Police Officer is now part of the regular salaries line.

Chairman Smith was pleased to hear that 15 vest are included in the clothing line. \$800.00 a year in clothing allowance for the full time officers and \$400.00 for the part time. Half of the costs for the vests will be paid via grant.

Fire arms training was not used extensively last year. Jon now has an agreement with the National Guard for training as long as the back stop will be replaced. Last year there was no place for the Police Department to train and only shot to stay certified.

The Chief stated that we saved about \$4200.00 last year with the tax break from Mobil Exxon. Chief Tretter stated that their fuel request is in the safe zone but you never can tell.

There was brief discussion on the Police IT department and vehicle maintenance. After much discussion *Chairman Smith* asked for a vote on the Police Department budget request in the amount of \$1,138,725.00, *motion passed*

Emergency Management

The big cost is the generator as this is the prime center. Half the cost of the generator should be paid by the emergency grant from the state. Larry Wahl spoke of the proposed generator and questioned if the air cooled one would work. Helen stated that the school is a Red Cross center but does not have a generator. Originally the generator was for the school but since the Town Hall is a prime location it was thought to be better there instead.

The Chief and Commissioner were thanked.

Motion by Jack O'Reilly to adjourn, seconded by Gail Klanchesser. So moved.
Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi
Admin. Assist.

KRF