

NEWINGTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2004

Present: Budget Committee Members: Alfred Smith (Chairman), Dennis Acton, Jack Anderson, Kay Akerley, Leslie Brock, Candice Cantaloupo, Laura Coleman, Wil Gilbert, Gail Pare, Richard Spinney

Board of Selectmen Representative Jack O'Reilly, Administrative Assistant Cynthia Gillespie, Police Chief Bradley Loomis, Police Commissioner Jack Hoyt, Residents George and Ruth Fletcher

The Budget Committee Chairman Alfred Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The purpose of this meeting was to review the budget of the Police Department.

Budget Committee member, Gail Pare made the motion to accept the minutes of the January 14, 2004 meeting. The motion was seconded by Budget Committee member, Laura Coleman. Budget Committee member, Richard Spinney made the comment that the next minutes should list absent members of the Budget Committee, so noted by Chairman Smith. Motion carried with none opposed.

Police Department

Budget Committee member, Denis Acton made the motion to accept the Police Department Budget in the amount of \$950,378. The motion was seconded by Gail Pare.

Chairman Smith commended the Police Department and Commissioners for adjusting the budget's actual numbers to show what the real spending was and what is needed.

Chairman Smith asked why line 275, Uniforms was decreased. Police Chief Loomis answered that the Police Department was looking at possibly hiring a couple of new part time officers as well as a full time officer. The full time officer was hired, but not the part time officers. The Police Department was dependent on part time officers for 10 shifts a week. He added that after a change in scheduling and coverage, there are now only 4 shifts a week for part time officers. He pointed out that there is a corresponding drop on line 105, Part Time Wages.

Budget Committee member, Jack Anderson asked how many officers the Police Department has. Chief Loomis replied that there are 9 full time officers, including him, and 6 part time officers. Laura Coleman asked what the department's turn over rate is like. Chief Loomis answered that in the two and half years that he has been with the Town, the only loss to the Police Department was Doug Lorenz, and that was due to his retirement.

NEWINGTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2004

Police Commissioner, Jack Hoyt stated that back in the 90's the department seemed like a training center for other Towns in the area. However, the pay scale was revised, making the Town more competitive, which seemed to solve the problem with turn over.

Selectmen O'Reilly asked what the rate is for Outside Details. Chief Loomis said the officer's are paid \$30.00 an hour. The companies are charged \$35.00 per hour (\$5 administrative fee), and if a car is requested the companies are charged \$10.00 per hour for the use of the equipment. Denis Acton asked if it cost the Town extra when the LPG ships come in during the higher security alert. Chief Loomis answered that there has been no overtime hours spent on security for LPG ships. Basically the department has been able to use on duty personnel. Denis Acton asked if the extra security is mandatory. Chief Loomis explained that the Police Department is part of the overall Port security plan and that helps to maintain the security on the New Hampshire side of the river. Gail Pare asked if the Grants from Homeland Security help to pay for some of this expense. Chief Loomis explained that the first two rounds of the grants were based on population, not infrastructure. So the Town received only about \$1800 on each of these grants. After September 11th the State came in to see what could be done to increase security around the area. At that time the Department received about \$15,000 worth of radios that they weren't scheduled to get. Chief Loomis also explained that the Town received \$20,000 from Home Land Security in a Competitive Grant, for equipment. Most of the equipment is for the Fire Department in the form of Protective gear.

Laura Coleman asked about where the money for animal care is budgeted. Chief Loomis stated that \$1,500 is budgeted in line 690, General. The salary for the Animal Control Officer is included in part time wages line 105. He added that he increased the Stipend for the Animal Control Officer by \$500.00 from \$5,000 to \$5,500.

Budget Committee member, Kay Akerley noted that insurance has increased. Chief Loomis explained that the Health Insurance increased by 13.6%, and the Dental Insurance increased by 8.22%. Retirement did not increase this year.

Budget Committee member, Leslie Brock asked what the \$2,200 on the Police Commission line was for. Chief Loomis stated that the Commission buys plaques for awards during the year, and the annual banquet, expenses for Commission meetings, and mileage to attend meetings in Concord are all paid for out of this line.

Chief Loomis pointed out that this year the Department will be purchasing two new cruisers. The two cruisers that will be rotated out will be given to the fire department and the code enforcement officer. The code enforcement officer's vehicle will be put out to bid. The cars that are rotated out have approximately 95,000 miles on them.

NEWINGTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2004

Chairman Smith mentioned the "Car 54 Project". Chief Loomis stated that UNH has a Federal Grant to develop Hands Free-Voice Activated Police Vehicles. The Department has 2 of the cars done already. The two new vehicles the Department will purchase this year will also be outfitted by UNH. UNH will maintain the cars for three years.

Laura Coleman asked what equipment was purchased by the Department last year. Chief Loomis stated that the Department purchased a couple of rifles with scopes and an ID Badge maker. He added that they upgraded most of the computers in the department and added some memory to the others.

Budget Committee member, Jack Anderson asked what line 291, Training Firearms included. Chief Loomis stated that Training Firearms is for rounds of ammunition and targets for training and qualifying at the shooting range. There is also a charge to use the indoor firing range (Signa). The Department shoots four times a year. The officers have to qualify on both pistols and rifles.

Chairman Smith called for a vote to accept the Police Department's Budget in the amount of \$950,378. Motion was carried with none opposed.

Chairman Smith thanked the Police Department for being an outstanding group of professionals. He pointed out that the Police and Fire Departments are both working with a Town that has a very unique profile, with a small residential area and a large commercial and industrial area. Even with these demands, both departments are doing a great job for the community.

Chairman Smith passed out a "Five Year Plan" submitted by the Fire Department for the Budget Committee's review. He asked the members to please review the Plan before meeting with the Fire Department on January 28th.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. by Selectmen O'Reilly. The motion was seconded by Gail Pare. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Gillespie
Administrative Assistant