

**Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2007
Town Hall 7:00pm**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Alfred Smith at 7:02pm

Present: Chairman Al Smith, Deirdre Link-representing the School Board, Jack O'Reilly representing the Selectmen, Russ Cooke, Gail Klanchesser, Gail Pare, Larry Wahl, Candice Cantalupo, Rick Stern (at 7:12), Fire Chief Roy Greenleaf, Assistant Fire Chief Dennis Cote, Fire Engineers Steve Sabine, Wib Goins and Ruth Fletcher, Fire Secretary Sarah McQuade, Beatrice Marconi-Administrative Assistant, Cyndi Gillespie and Barbara McDonald. Absent were Cliff Abbott and John Lamson. Filling in for Helen Maldini was Deirdre Link

Jack O'Reilly moved to accept the minutes of January 17, 2007. Gail Klanchesser seconded. Motion passed.

A Fire Department budget of \$ 1,143,482 was presented to the Budget Committee. Gail Pare moved to accept with Gail Klanchesser seconding.

Salaries: Covered a 2.8% C.O.L.A. plus a small merit.

Leave Buy Out: New line for this year only. Covers those who have over 240 hours on books due to shift work. A leave earning policy was negotiated between the Fire Department and the Engineers bringing their earning rate in line with Town policy. The problem was caused by the term 'day'. A Fire Department 'day' worked is interpreted as 24 hours.

Call Personnel: Asking for \$ 20,000 however participation decreased in '06. The Chief explained that due to overtime last year (storms, filling in for vacations, etc) this line was hardly touched to protect bottom line. From mid June through years' end, the Fire Dept budget was driven by the bottom line. Same number of call personnel for 2007 unless someone unexpected comes forward.

Professional Training: The Chief explained he planned on 3 persons attending 1 week of training in Virginia this year. Plus Fire Inspector II training is coming up.

The last 2 new hires signed a 3 year contract regarding training received from Newington.

Training Equipment: They are planning to buy Rescue Randy for training purposes.

Physicals: Our health insurance does not cover job mandated physicals. Cost is around \$400 per person. 14 people are in need of physicals.

Telephone: Shows higher than it actually should be due to the T-1 internet being charged to phone rather than computer expense.

Ambulance Billing Fees: To pay the 8% collection fee to ComStar.

Leased Equipmt: Copier, pagers, Dell computers, and DEFIB.

HazMat: Although our portion is going up to \$1,980, Portsmouth pays the bulk of it as we are in same zip code.

Ambulance Supplies: Up 5% - Higher costs

Office Equipment Purchases: New phone system. The Chief was going to call Williams to see if an upgrade rather than replacement can meet their needs.

SCBA Maint: Tested twice a year. Last year this service was donated.

Radio Maint: It was noted only \$430 was spent of the \$2,500 budgeted due to protection of bottom line.

Vehicle Maint: Radio charges to bring to compliance with OSHA. Also the striping on back of vehicles. Ladder testing.

Foam: Class A & B foam. Funding will cover class A whereas class B is free.

Alarm Maint: 2 lines combined (town bldgs) Attempting to install 4 radio boxes this year. Due to the power sources needed in S Newington, we cannot convert as in other areas in town. One box in S Newington gets hit. The Chief will look into it.

TB Fire Alarms: Tests done in house every 6 months – Repairs by Burns.

Public Ed/Public Relations: Materials

Jack O'Reilly stated that with a \$98,000 increase comes approx 12 cents added to the tax rate.

Larry Wahl stated that some of the civic duties were not being done such as changing lights, clocks on school light timers, etc – The Chief had no idea of what had transpired for him to say this but will look into the situation. He stated that all requests should be directed to him or the Assistant Chief for departmental action.

Chairman Al Smith called for a vote on the \$ 1,143,482 acceptance – and with one objection (Larry Wahl), the motion passed.

Jack O'Reilly announced the public hearing scheduled for 6:00pm January 29 for a land acquisition bond issue and added that the members' budget packets for the general government will be delivered by Friday.

Next meeting will be the school budget – Wednesday Jan 31.

Gail Klanchesser moved to adjourn at 8:50. Jack O'Reilly seconded. So moved.

Respectively Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant