

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Town of Newington Town Hall
January 25, 2006
7:00 pm.

Present: Chairman Smith, Gail Klanchesser, Larry Wahl, Rick Stern, Dennis Acton, Candice Cantelupo, Dick Spinney, Leslie Brock, Helen Maldini, Selectman Representative Jack O'Reilly, Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi, Fire Engineers Wib Goins, Steve Sabine, Ruth Fletcher, Fire Chief Greenleaf, Assistant Fire Chief Cote and John Klanchesser

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Leslie Brock moved to accept the minutes of January 18, 2006. **Seconded by Rick Stern, motion passed** with 2 corrections.

Jack O'Reilly moved to accept the Fire Department budget request in the amount of \$1,006,179.00. **Motion seconded by Leslie Brock**, the issue was then opened for discussion.

Clerical Wages

Chief Greenleaf explained that he proposed to give his secretary a \$2.00 per hour raise to put her at the same pay rate as other secretaries.

Personal Training

There was a question raised as to why there was such an increase in Personal Training. Chief Greenleaf explained that there were four people slated to go to Ship Board Fire Fighter School in Virginia and the remainder of the staff is planned for next year, thus the increase in the Personal Training portion of the budget.

Sick Pay

Chief Greenleaf explained that when the employees' salaries go up the sick pay rates go up as well. Employees get eight sick days a year and when they don't use them they get to buy a portion of them back.

Lease Equipment

The Fire Department is now renting pagers and a copier along with other office equipment (computers) Chief Greenleaf went on to say that the department tried to get a grant but were unsuccessful.

There was a question in regards to office supplies. It was stated that last fiscal year the Fire Department went over their allowed supply budget but the same amount was budgeted for this year and this person wanted to know why and if the same amount would due. The Chief replied that last year was a learning experience and that the Fire Department is using a different vendor.

Physicals

Many fire fighters are due for physicals and the price increased.

Vehicle Maintenance

Vehicle maintenance went up by 70%. Engineer Steve Sabine stated that by increasing this line, it would hopefully decrease the use of the Capital Reserve for Maint and Vehicles. The reason the request is at \$26,449 is due to the fact that the trucks need new tires, service testing pumps, inspections, ladder testing and more.

Clothing

Chief Greenleaf explained that he had to purchase more sets. The gear gets ripped and has to be repaired and the price of gear has gone up to about \$1,500.00 a set. Chief Greenleaf prefers his staff to have two sets and now drag harnesses have to be included in the gear sets.

The SCBA have also gone up due to the fact that the Fire Department can't do their own maintenance - a private vendor has to be brought in. Jack O'Reilly stated that there would be a Warrant Article next week to establish a capital reserve fund for the SCBA. The Capital reserve fund is being established because there is a good chance that if the SCBAS' are *purchased* now they could become noncompliant in 2007 so the Fire Department decided to wait.

Alarm Maintenance

The Chief is trying to convert some of the town boxes. Chief stated that even though they didn't spend much last year this year he intends to implement more changes. The industrial area is switching to radio control boxes as work is done.

Public Education

These items are given for promotion and education but are in short supply.

Chief Greenleaf touched on the Bayring issue that occurred five months ago. He stated that there has not been a problem since. Jack O'Reilly added that the Fire Department ended up spending less than what was budgeted in the telephone budget line.

Revenue

Larry Wahl stated that he would like actual numbers on the revenue brought in by the Fire Department in regards to oil burners, alarms etc. Chief Greenleaf will supply this information at a later date. Larry also went on to say that he wanted number of calls and per vehicle count of calls.

Grants

The Fire Department put in for a Homeland Security grant and received \$21,000.00 for specific items ie: air bags, rams, chains, etc.

There was a question asked on whether or not the Fire Department anticipates bringing in the same amount of revenue as last year and the Chief felt it would be approximately in the same vicinity as 2005. He mentioned the fact that Com Star hopefully would be taking over the ambulance billing which would give more time for the secretary to concentrate her efforts in other areas.

Chairman Smith asked about the increase in personnel for 2006. Chief Greenleaf replied that even though it's shown on the 5 year plan, its not budgeted for this year.

Larry Wahl and Jack O'Reilly spoke of the truck bought in 1985 and how the Fire Department was told to take the low bid. There was also conversation about the pitch on the floor which Chief Greenleaf stated there will be a feasibility study on a drive thru type of garage.

Candice Cantalupo asked about the additional staffing in the plan. The Chief stated that it has been two years since they increased their staff. New employees sign an agreement to stay a certain period of time or would have to pay back a portion of their training or certification costs. Currently there are 10 full time people on board.

There was a question asked about cables. Chief Greenleaf stated that the cables were changed in the previous year.

Chairman Smith asked for a vote for the acceptance of the Fire Department's budget request in the amount of \$1,006,179.00. **So moved** by a majority vote.

Jack O'Reilly moved to adjourn, **motion seconded by Candice Cantalupo**. Being that there was no further discussion before the Budget Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant

KRF