

Town of Newington, NH
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 13, 2016 Town Hall

Chair John Lamson called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

Present: John Lamson, Gail Pare, Gail Klanchesser, Sandra Sweeney, Kathy Latchaw, School Board member David Mueller, Selectman Cosmas Iocovozzi, Fire Engineers Darin Sabin, Chair, Ruth Fletcher and James Fabrizio, Fire Chief Andy Head and Martha Roy, Town Administrator.

Absent: Brandon Arsenault, Jennifer Kent Weiner and Alan Wilson

Review of Minutes: G. Pare moved to approve the minutes of January 6, 2016. S. Sweeney seconded the motion. Motion passed. K. Latchaw and D. Mueller abstained as they were not present.

Fire Department Budget Review: G. Klanchesser moved to tentatively approve the Fire Department Budget of \$1,527,514. G. Pare seconded the motion. Chief Head spoke to the budget stating that most lines had minimal increases. Discussion ensued about hazardous materials group membership, alarm maintenance, training program, physicals, the pay plan for all non-union employees, shifts and the new call employee hours added to the budget. He stated that in the past they had three firefighters in the station and this will allow for a fourth person from 8am to 6pm. The Union and management are still negotiating.

Warrant Article Discussion: C. Iocovozzi stated that the Selectmen have approved \$100,000 for the Replacement and Repair of Vehicles for the Fire Truck Capital Reserve. He noted that there was currently \$111,000 in the Capital Reserve fund and this will eventually allow for a purchase of a second new pumper truck. He stated that the Selectmen cut the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund request from \$20,000 to \$10,000 as the new ambulance is running fine and there will be over \$25,000 in the account after Town Meeting. The Selectmen also cut the warrant article for the Fire Department Communications Capital Reserve Fund from \$50,000 to \$40,000 as there is already \$10,000. in the account and a new Keltron Communications system will cost approximately \$50,000.

Chief Head stated that the 1998 pump Fire truck's frame rail is separating on the right side. The inspector said it might be 1 or 2 years before it won't pass inspection. They have received a quote of \$35,000 to repair this. He stated that the pump also needs to be rebuilt and the repair of this will start at \$11,000. Work

has been completed on the motor but the truck needs a new fuel tank also. The Engineers and Chief do not believe it is worth the money to repair it. The department looked at a used truck for \$70,000, but decided against this as the truck might only last 4 or 5 years. C. Iocovozzi stated that the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund will grow to \$211,000 after Town Meeting. D. Sabine stated that the new NFPA standard requirements bring the cost of a truck to almost \$500,000.

C. Iocovozzi stated since the Town has a new pump truck and a new ambulance it has just purchased there is no need to buy another new fire pumper truck at this time. He explained that there are other expensive bonding issues and abatement cases that the Town is facing right now. The purchase of a new truck should be delayed and we should use mutual aid, if even necessary.

J. Lamson called for a vote on the Fire Department budget and all were in favor of \$1,527,514.

Encumbrance Discussion: Chief Head discussed the department's plan to provide firefighter paramedic training as funds allow. This will increase the level of care to the Town's residents.

G. Pare moved to adjourn at 8:42pm. This was seconded by C. Iocovozzi with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha S. Roy
Town Administrator