

LEBANON BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes, February 17, 2021

Lebanon Fire Station

- Meeting open – 6:35 p.m. A moment of silence was held for a firefighter who lost his life in Afghanistan after request and explanation by Fire Chief Flynn of an incident that occurred in Afghanistan. Chair, Jeri Basko led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Laura Bragg, Chris Gilpatrick, James DuPrie, Deborah Wilson, Jeri Basko, Chip Harlow, Elaine Hartford, Michael Walsworth and Joyce Wood. Also present were Selectmen Charles Russell, Paul Philbrick and Corinna Cole. Also present was a member of the Public, Nick Wyman. Jeff Adams joined later in the meeting.
- Minutes of February 10, 2021 were reviewed. Mike Walsworth stated that the spelling of his name was incorrect. Laura Bragg made motion to approve the minutes with this change. Chris Gilpatrick seconded, and all voted in favor.
- Outstanding Business
 1. Relief Agency Discussions:
 - York County Community Action - Mike Walsworth shared financial information on York County Community Action and made a motion to reduce this from \$4,005 to \$200. Jeri Basko seconded, and much discussion followed. Mike Walsworth then amended his motion to reduce the amount from \$4,005.00 to \$2,000.00 with second made by Joyce Wood. Vote taken: 6 Yes and 3 No
 - Animal Control Budget Request - Mr. Walsworth made a motion to reduce the Animal Control Budget request by \$1,500 giving explanation that this budget has not been spent by this approximate amount for several years. After much discussion, he revised his motion to state “to reduce the amount by \$1,500 and that the Selectmen present this to the ACO for her review of the potential reduction.” Motion was seconded by James DuPrie. All (9) voted in favor.
- Budget Discussions
 1. Marijuana Discussion/Issues - Selectman Russell reviewed and gave explanation of a draft budget proposal. Each item on the list was discussed in detail by the group.

Highlights:

 - All funding to come from fees paid by approved businesses.
 - The fee monies can only be used for specific items, most related to marijuana issues. Selectmen agreed to provide copies of the portion of the State Statute that describes the laws on what the fees can be used or not used for.
 - This proposal will change the Code Officer from part-time to a full time position with benefits and a new Code Employee position with benefits, (two line items for 50,000.00 each), as well as an additional \$20,000 to add to the Fire salary to cover the Chief and responders when needed.
 - Funds to cover any additional work needed by, example given, Planning Board.

This subject was discussed further. The Chair gave permission for Public Comment. Nick Wyman, Lebanon Resident, expressed his thoughts on the proposed budget. Much discussion and questions followed.

At 8:35 motion was made by Deborah Wilson to end the meeting which was seconded by James DuPrie. Vote taken: 2 in favor and 7 against.

The meeting continued with Mr. Wyman completing his comments. At this time Selectman, Jeff Adams, joined the meeting and gave explanation on the proposed budget and fee schedule.

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. after motion by Elaine Hartford, second by James DuPrie.
Vote taken: 8 yes and 1 abstain.