

LEBANON BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes, April 12, 2021

Lebanon Fire Station

- Meeting open – 6:30 p.m. Present, including members of the public were Laura Bragg, Chris Gilpatrick, James DuPrie, Deborah Wilson, Jeri Basko, Chip Harlow, Michael Walsworth, Matthew Leggett, Elaine Hartford and Joyce Wood. Also present were Selectmen Charles Russell, Paul Philbrick, Corinna Cole, Ernest Lizotte and Jeff Adams. Present from the public was Matthew Leggett and Janet Bruyere. Absent was David White.
- Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairwoman, Jeri Basko.
- Minutes of April 7, 2021 were reviewed. Chris Gilpatrick made motion to approve the minutes as submitted, Laura Bragg seconded and 9 voted in favor.
- Chuck Russell gave an explanation of why the meeting was called stating that other Towns, Milton, North Berwick and Sanford are charging up to \$2,000 when/if needed when Lebanon does not have the coverage. The total annual cost could reach \$31,000 if this should continue. Any calls that the surrounding towns make when there is coverage at the Lebanon station, will be considered mutual aid and there will not be a \$2000.00 service charge to the town. There is a \$375 dollar paramedic charge when Sanford responds. He said that a request was made to the Board by Chief Flynn to increase pay to fire and rescue employees across the board and to pay for weekend cover to help with this problem. Mr. Russell reached out to some towns and Frisbee Ambulance Service, which is now a privatized company and they have indicated that the fees for coverage will continue as set.

He reported that \$50,000.00 has been approved by the Selectmen to add to the Lebanon Fire and EMS proposed budget. To do this they approved taking \$10,000 out of the Transfer Station budget, \$30,000 from the Highway budget and reducing the LD1 by \$10,000 (still keeping it under the limit).

After questions and discussions, a motion was made by Elaine Hartford to vote on the articles as revised. James DuPrie seconded. After further discussion, an amended motion was made by Elaine Hartford to end discussion and vote on the articles. James DuPrie seconded and 8 voted in favor. One member was out of the room.

Votes were taken on articles as follows:

- Referendum 13: \$492,862 for the operation of the Lebanon Transfer Station. Yes – 8, NO -1
- Referendum 15: \$736,756 for the operation of the Highway Department. Yes – 9
- Referendum 19: \$641,914 for the operation, upkeep and purchase of equipment and supplies for the Lebanon Fire and EMS Department. Yes – 9

Minor discussion followed the votes concerning thoughts on funding the changes made. Chip Harlow questioned if the Budget Committee should be voting on articles unless the article appropriates or expends funds. Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Elaine Hartford to adjourn. James Duprie second and 9 voted in favor.