

Budget Committee  
Minutes – January 22, 2020

The Chair, Jeri Basko, opened the meeting at 6:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Jeri Basko, Chris Gilpatrick, Chip Harlow, Elaine Hall, David White, Deborah Wilson, Skip Wood, Joyce Wood and three Selectmen, Laura Bragg, Paul Philbrick and Corinna Cole. Absent from the Budget Committee was Dan Corliss.

Minutes of January 15, 2020 were read. Motion by Chip Harlow, second by Skip Wood to approve with corrections. All voted in favor.

From last week:

Reserve account: Laura Bragg reported that MMA, Maine Municipal Association Selectmen have authorization to create a reserve account.

CIP Balance: \$137,746.82

LRAP (road funds received from State): \$87,764

January 22 Agenda:

Chief Steve Merrill presented budget request broken down by line item along with an explanation sheet.

Fire Department Budget: an overall increase in budget from \$499,503 to \$522,797 – an increase of \$23,294

PERSONAL SERVICES: \$320,607 to \$333,488 – increase of \$12,881

- Moderate increase for himself as Chief.
- Per Diem – current rate is per hour if they come in for a call after their per diem shift and he is proposing the per hour rate to be their individual level of service rate.
- New law: After 40 hours of service the employee will receive one hour paid leave.
- Assistant Chief will go from a stipend to an hourly rate.

Question “Does this include the Town COLA increase? Ans: no, and the Chiefs request is more beneficial to the Town

EMPLOYEE COSTS: FROM \$34,046 TO \$39,504 – INCREASE OF \$5,458

- Training increased to be able to meet state and federal mandated – hours required for different levels has increased.

SUPPLIES Increase of \$2,500 (\$27,500 to \$30,000)

UTILITIES: Increase of \$210 (15,540 to 15,750)

- Increase due to phone service and change to a business account.

REPAIR/MAINTENANCE: Increase of \$1,500 (\$50,500 to \$52,000)

- Question was asked “why no increase to building maintenance”? Chief explained that there is a CIP building fund account.
- Ownership of Fire Station 2 - Selectmen explained that papers should be passing soon. The poor condition of both buildings was discussed in detail.

- Chief explained the need for a bio-hazard room to meet State regulations.

EQUIPMENT: Increase of \$1,225 ( 17,250 TO \$18,475)

- Decrease in software costs as some programs are no longer used.
- Hoses need replacement. Many are deteriorating.
- Some fire gear needs replacement.
- Chief and Selectmen will investigate a duplicate entry on the payment of the cardiac monitor .

OUTSIDE SERVICES: Increase of \$550 (\$27,355 to \$27,930)

- The data plans for the I-pads in the ambulance fee has gone up by \$900. He explained the need for these devices which making reporting on an incident more efficient.
- Dispatch – Lebanon is on its own channel and no longer dependent on the towers in Acton.
- Need to keep the paramedic intercept line item as they still use Sanford for some paramedic all and there is a charge for this.

OTHER: Decrease of \$475 (\$6,225 to \$5,750)

The second payment for the Stretcher will be on this year's budget. Chief reported that the new stretcher has proven to be a great help.

Also discussed was CIPs and the amount that is in each. These reports will be provided next week.

Chief Merrill then reported that he would like to propose the purchase of a new fire truck in this year's budget as this is a desperate need for the Town. Many questions were asked and discussed. This will need to be researched further and brought to the Selectmen for consideration.

Next week's meeting, January 29, 2020 will be to review ACO, CMP and Transfer Station accounts and may include additional items.

Motion was made by David White to adjourn. After further discussion, second was made by Chip Harlow. The Chair, Jeri Basko adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.