

Lebanon Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

3 - 16 - 16

Members Present - Jeri Basko, Laura Bragg, Sean Bright, Corinna Cole, Chris Gilpatrick, Bettie Harris Howard, Nancy Neubert, Skip Wood

Selectmen Present - Chairperson Thompson

Department Head - Dan Meehan

Recorders: None

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Basko at 6:36. Minutes from last week were read. Laura Bragg motioned to accept and Bettie Harris Howard seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by a unanimous 8 - 0 vote.

Dan Meehan presented information about the warrant article concerning a new fire truck. The article was not ready with all the other town articles because the chief didn't know when the deadline was. The department currently has 2 tanker trucks and an engine. This truck was the lowest of three bids. The amount for the truck is \$454,879. Selectman Thompson and the chief indicated that they were looking at the 10 year term annual payment - \$54,572.00/year. The chief did not know what the interest rate was - it is included in the yearly payment. The chief did not bring the department's 2014 proposal with him so the committee could compare them. The warrant hasn't been written yet so the committee could not vote.

There was some discussion about the department asking for 2 new trucks in one year - the other being a pick-up truck to be used as a forestry vehicle. There was also discussion about the number of years in the lease. Some members thought 10 years was too long since it will cost the town \$90,000. more in interest.

Corinna Cole asked the committee to discuss the Fire/EMS regular budget which received a vote of 7 - no and 2 abstentions. She was interested in the reasons why members voted against this budget and wanted the committee to work with the department head to come up with a budget that the committee would support. Members talked about why they voted no - mostly because the budget was too high - and that the vote is final. Since we do not have line-item veto power, anyone objecting to a budget has only one option to show that they disagree, and that is by voting no.

The committee will meet next week March 22 at 6:00 pm to vote on this article. Chris Gilpatrick motioned to adjourn and Laura Bragg seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm with a unanimous 8 - 0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Neubert,
Secretary

Corrected and Approved 3-22-16