

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FOR 3-16-17

ROLL CALL/SIGN-IN:

PRESENT:

Bettie Harris-Howard
Deborah Wilson
Corinna Cole

Laura Bragg
Skip Wood
Jeri Basko

Sean Bright
Rebecca Beal
Judy Churchard

ABSENT:

Becky Batchelder

SELECTMEN:

Royce Heath, Chairman

Paul Nadeau

PUBLIC:

Ben Thompson

Dana Coull

Chip Harlow

Bettie motioned to open the meeting at 6:40. Laura seconded.

Becky reported that the **LCLC** is not going to be in operation next year, so its donation was removed from the list of Relief Agencies. The new total for Relief Agencies is 12,764

Deb clarified that she had talked with Georgie Allen and confirmed that the **craft fair** is not part of the recreation budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ambulance Referendum:

Chief Meehan presented figures for a **new ambulance**. After comparing prices with several vendors (which came in at the same price), the exact amount of the best quote is \$299,234. This includes several essential accessories: 2 new Zolls (an instrument that monitors heart, pulse, breathing, CO2 level, etc.) and a new automatic Striker Stretcher. He mentioned that he went in with Milton and Acton to get a better deal on the Zolls. The Striker Stretcher is \$19,000 by itself. It is adapted to adjust automatically for larger patients. A four year loan would be \$75,487/year at 3.9% with a \$20,000 down payment. The price will be further reduced when Ambulance 1 is bought back. He stated that he would like to put \$50,000 down to further reduce the payment.

He explained that A1 needs to be replaced and A2 is down with electrical issues which should be covered by warranty. There was a lot of discussion about how much to put on the

down-payment. This is important because the lower the total financed, the lower the amount of interest charged over the length of the loan.

As a budget committee, we are charged with using the funds of the Town wisely and we take that task very seriously. The discussion about how big a down-payment to put down and how much we should appropriate for the Capital Reserve Fund to make sure there would be enough money for the 4 payments went on for a long time, with everyone voicing their opinion. It was mentioned that in 2016 the Fire and EMS brought in \$126,236 in revenues for the general fund which contributes to keeping the MIL rate lower. It was finally decided to ask for \$75,000 for the Capital Reserve Fund. The final decision was to use a down-payment of \$100,000 which brings the amount financed to \$199,234. That will be 4 payments of about \$55,000. Chief Meehan will contact the vendor and ask for specifics of the purchase with a \$100,000 down-payment. The wording of the referendum will be determined by the BOS and presented to the Budget Committee.

There was a lot of discussion about the ballot items. We were able to vote our recommendations on some of the referendum items on the ballot, but there were a lot of wording changes and bottom line changes that we wanted to see in print. The Ambulance Referendum needs to be written up before we can vote on it. We decided to meet again on Monday to finalize our recommendations after the Selectmen had a chance to meet and finalize the wording and numbers on the referendums.

Bettie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:25. Seconded by Judy. All agreed.

Next meeting will be on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 7:00.

Agenda:

New Business:

- Ambulance referendum
- Review clean copy of ballot

Old Business:

- Review questions for Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca W. Beal

Minutes approved by Budget Committee on 3-20-17