

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO  
BUDGET COMMITTEE  
December 13, 2016  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** John MacDonald, Chairman, Bob Tougher, Vice-Chairman, Luke Freudenberg, Selectmen's Representative, Steve Johnson, Brian Black, Harold Parker, John Burt, Robert Loughman, Bob O'Brien, Bob Moholland, Members.

**Member Absent:** Harold Parker, Member (excused).

**Staff Present:** Dave Owen, Town Manager, Pete Chamberlain, Finance Director, Dave Ford, Director of Public Works, Captain Dean Rondeau, Wolfeboro Police Department, Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

*Chairman MacDonald called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM at the Great Hall.*

**FINAL BUDGET REVIEW**

**Police Overtime; 01-42100-140**

Bob Tougher stated the Police Department requested \$88,096 for overtime wages however, the BOS increased it to \$99,096. He stated he understood from the minutes that the increase was in anticipation of the collective bargaining agreement and requested clarification of such.

Dave Owen stated the funding is not a provision in the tentative bargaining agreement relative to additional overtime rather, the increase is to address safety issues by providing additional overtime resources in the budget.

Bob Tougher questioned whether the minimum manning provision should be part of collective bargaining.

Dave Owen stated he strongly opposes such because it would largely increase overtime expenses.

Bob Tougher questioned whether \$99,096 is necessary and whether scheduling changes could address the issue.

Luke Freudenberg stated Chief Chase and Captain Rondeau presented public safety issues when there is only one officer on duty on Fridays and Saturdays. He stated the increased funding would allow for an additional officer on duty.

Bob Tougher asked how long the minimum staffing has been occurring.

Dean Rondeau replied since he has been employed with the Town, 1996. He stated through creative scheduling they have created overlapping shifts and have been able to mitigate their liability. He stated the Town is now accepting risk during the overnight hours, 12 AM – 8 AM. He stated the intent of the increased funding is to limit liability and allow for the opportunity to cover the shift when deemed needed. He stated the increase is about officer safety.

Brian Black stated staffing has been light for decades. He stated that if the intent is to address officer safety then the funding should be in hourly wages rather than overtime; noting overtime should be used for those circumstances that require an officer to work more than an 8 hour shift.

John MacDonald expressed concern that Chief Chase presented a budget for \$88,000 and the Police Commission accepted that budget and then presented it to the BOS. He verified the increase occurred at a nonpublic session. He stated White Horse Addiction Center quoted the Police Department reported 12 deaths in 2015 from heroin; noting he'd like to see the money go towards that program to address the issue. He stated he reviewed the grants received by the Police Department and feels there is enough money in the overtime budget.

Dean Rondeau stated the Police Department participated in a grant with the Sheriff's Department for federal fiscal year for drug and addiction; noting the Sheriff's Department would be the grant holder and the Police Department would comply with the requirements of the grant. He stated if the Committee approves the increase in overtime the funds would be used to cover gaps during the busy summer months or times deemed most dangerous. He stated the Police Department presented a budget based on guidance that had been received. He stated the BOS increased the funding based on the Town Manager and Luke Freudenberg's statements. He stated he was not privy to the nonpublic discussion nor was he at the meeting when the BOS approved the increase in funding.

John MacDonald asked if the Town has a mutual aid agreement with surrounding towns.

Dean Rondeau replied yes, however there aren't always officers on duty in other towns.

Bob O'Brien asked if Wolfeboro responds to other towns therefore, leaving the Town without an officer on duty.

Dean Rondeau replied yes and noted such recently occurred a few months ago with New Durham.

Brian Black stated that typically when an officer responds to a mutual aid call it is for a short duration.

John MacDonald questioned the five year average, not including the Mitt Romney campaign.

Pete Chamberlain replied \$94,979.

Brian Black questioned the amount of additional hours relative to the increase in overtime.

Dean Rondeau replied 4.5 hours per officer per week.

Brian Black questioned the total number of hours.

Bob O'Brien stated the minutes reflect 244 hours.

Brian Black stated he supports an increase to hourly wages rather than overtime.

John Burt questioned whether the increase in overtime would affect the benefits.

Pete Chamberlain replied yes, social security and retirement.

John Burt asked if health benefits would be affected.

Pete Chamberlain replied no.

Dean Rondeau stated he feels the increase in overtime is the easiest and least expensive way to limit liability.

Steve Johnson stated he would rather fund a more efficient solution.

Bob Tougher agreed with Steve Johnson.

**It was moved by Steve Johnson to decrease Overtime 01-42100-140 from \$99,096 to \$88,096. There being no second, the motion fails.**

#### **Winter Harbor Watershed Management Plan; 01-49617-732**

Dave Ford stated the Committee received Town Counsel opinion regarding the expenditure of Town funds for improvements on private property; noting such is legal and the Town has the authority to do such as long as it is for public benefit. He stated he originally requested \$40,000 however, such was cut by the Committee to \$0 and then further discussion ensued regarding partial funding. He stated the new proposal includes the installation of BMP's along Partridge

Drive and Whitegate Lane for a funding request of \$15,000. He noted that funding the proposal would be used for matching funds for wetland grants.

**It was moved by Bob Moholland and seconded by Robert Loughman to increase Winter Harbor Watershed Management Plan 01-49617-732 from \$0 to \$15,000. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.**

Bob Tougher recommended looking at regulations for septic systems.

**Replace Outdated Playground Equipment; 01-49617-761**

John MacDonald stated the cost estimate provided for such from O'Brien and Sons reflects \$7,777.40 for the purchase and installation of the equipment therefore, he recommended reducing such.

**It was moved by John MacDonald and seconded by Bob Tougher to decrease 01-49617-761 from \$9,777 to \$7,777.40. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.**

**Upgrade Brewster Beach Bathrooms; 01-49617-736**

John MacDonald stated the cost estimates provided for such by Mal's Plumbing and Heating, Cincotta Construction and JB & Son Sewer and Drain reflects \$6,356.74 therefore, he recommended reducing such.

**It was moved by John MacDonald and seconded by Bob Tougher to decrease 01-49617-736 from \$9,557 to \$6,356.74. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.**

**DEFAULT BUDGET**

Pete Chamberlain stated the 2017 Default Budget is \$25,497,435.

**ESTIMATED REVENUES**

Pete Chamberlain reviewed the estimated revenues for 2017; noting the estimate as \$18,196,464

**It was moved by John MacDonald and seconded by Bob O'Brien to continue the final budget review to December 14, 2015. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.**

**It was moved by Robert Loughman and seconded by Bob O'Brien to adjourn the December 13, 2016 Budget Committee meeting. All members voted in favor.**

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Lee Ann Keathley*

Lee Ann Keathley

**\*\*Please note these minutes are subject to approval and amendments at a later date.**