

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO
BUDGET COMMITTEE
November 14, 2016
Minutes**

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

Member Absent: Harold Parker, Member (excused).

Staff Present: Pete Chamberlain, Finance Director, Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

Staff Absent: Dave Owen, Town Manager.

Others Present: Stu Chase, Police Chief, Dean Rondeau, Captain, Sherri Moore, Administrative Assistant, Wolfeboro Police Department.

Chairman MacDonald called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM at the Great Hall.

Chairman MacDonald expressed deep condolences for the passing of Cindy Burt.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dean Rondeau noted an increase to the cell phone line item in the amount of \$6,238; noting such reflects a change of protocols in law enforcement.

Bob Moholland questioned the increase to overtime by the BOS.

Luke Freudenberg stated there are times when only one officer is on duty at night. He stated the BOS granted the increase to facilitate the department in addressing their need for additional coverage when needed. He stated the funding would provide the department more flexibility to call in an officer during the peak times.

Dean Rondeau stated the discussion came up as an officer safety issue with the union. The Town Manager recommended the increase and the BOS approved such. He stated the department analyzed the costs associated with coverage between the hours of 2 am - 6 am when there is only one officer on duty. He noted the department requested \$15,000 however, the BOS approved an \$11,000 increase.

Steve Johnson asked if there has been much of a change in population from 2006 – 2016.

Dean Rondeau stated that according to the census, Wolfeboro's population is 6,200 however, he believes there is a flaw in the census and that the population has increased.

Steve Johnson questioned whether the shift schedule could be changed.

Dean Rondeau stated he looked at various changes to the schedule; noting the summer months have been targeted to increase coverage.

Stu Chase stated there has been a strong tendency to rely on other agencies for assistance however, mutual aid is no longer dependable during the hours of 2 am – 6 am.

Luke Freudenberg stated Wolfeboro is one of only 3 departments in Carroll County that has their own 24 hour dispatch center; noting the department does an exemplary job.

Bob O'Brien stated he is supportive of the request.

Brian Black stated he finds it unusual that the request was initiated by the Town Manager rather than the Police Department and questioned whether the request was precipitated by a specific event.

Stu Chase replied no, the Town Manager came to him personally and requested that he research different scenarios specifically between the 2 am – 6 am hours.

Ron Goodgame stated the request arose from the Police Commission. He stated the Commission understands it is not feasible to add a police officer therefore, the Commissioners asked the Chief to research additional coverage between the hours of 2 am and 6 am. He stated during the union negotiations it was recommended to have two officers on duty from midnight to 8 am; noting he then discussed the request with the Town Manager.

Steve Johnson questioned the number of officers on duty during the day.

Dean Rondeau replied 4 not including the school resource officer who is dedicated to the schools.

Pete Chamberlain stated the original request was \$15,000 however, once the benefits were backed out the final figure was \$11,000.

Steve Johnson questioned the number of hours the \$11,000 would provide.

Dean Rondeau replied 244 hours.

John MacDonald questioned whether the supervisor's schedule could be changed to 8 pm – 4 am on Friday and Saturday evenings. Referencing supervisory salaries, he noted the insurance opt out should decrease by \$7,284 since the Chief is retiring. He requested a revisit of such and asked Mr. Goodgame if the Commission would have an objection to reducing the request if it is found that the insurance opt out for Chief Chase was not taken out.

Ron Goodgame replied no.

John MacDonald requested enforcement of boat parking at the Town Docks.

Dean Rondeau stated he has already agreed to such.

Brian Black recommended public awareness regarding the time limits for such.

John Burt questioned the number of vehicles.

Stu Chase replied 10.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dean Rondeau noted an overall increase to the budget of 2.23%; noting such is related to increases in the 100 series, 200 series, machinery and equipment, other purchasing services and safety equipment.

John MacDonald asked if all full time employees are members of the union.

Dean Rondeau replied yes.

John MacDonald asked if it is possible for a union employee and nonunion employee to receive different percentage salary increases.

Dean Rondeau replied yes and noted the BOS determine the percentage increase for nonunion employees.

John MacDonald questioned the year to date expenditure for machinery and equipment.

Sherri Moore replied \$1,500 has been encumbered; noting the department is waiting to receive a cost estimate for the battery backups.

John Burt asked if there is a large turnover in the department.

Dean Rondeau replied no, not for full time employees.

ANIMAL CONTROL

No changes.

Revisit Items

- Police Department; revenue report
- Police Department, insurance opt out; confirm number of insurance opt outs

It was moved by John Burt and seconded by Bob Moholland to adjourn the November 14, 2016 Budget Committee meeting. All members voted in favor.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley

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