

**Wolfeboro Police Commission
Meeting Minutes
COVID-19 Meeting - GoToMeeting
March 18, 2021**

Members present: Chairman Steve Wood, and Vice-Chair Bob O'Brien

Staff present: Chief Dean Rondeau, Captain Mark Livie, and Recording Secretary Sherri Moore

Chairman Wood called the GoToMeeting to order at 4:01 PM.

Chairman Wood read the following Preamble into the record:

MEETING PREAMBLE DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY

Good Evening, as Chairman of the Wolfeboro Police Commission, I am declaring that an emergency exists and I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III (b). Federal, state, and local officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to our community in its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID- 19. In concurring with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of town government and services, which are vital to public safety and confidence during this emergency. As such, this meeting will be conducted without a quorum of this body physically present in the same location.

At this time, I also welcome members of the public accessing this meeting remotely. Even though this meeting is being conducted in a unique manner under unusual circumstances, the usual rules of conduct and decorum apply. Any person found to be disrupting this meeting will be asked to cease the disruption. Should the disruptive behavior continue thereafter, that person will be removed from this meeting.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Let 's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their name please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

The Commission Members gave a Roll Call vote, Chairman Steve Wood – alone in a room in his house, Commissioner Bob O'Brien – present and alone in a room in his house, Chief Dean Rondeau – present and alone in a room in his house, Captain Mark Livie – alone in a room in his house, Sherri Moore – present and in a room in her house,

Consideration of Minutes

Commissioner O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the February 25, 2021 public minutes as presented and written. Commissioner Wood seconded. Roll call vote: Bob O'Brien – yes, and Steve Wood – yes, Members voted, the motion passed.

Commissioner Elect Update

Chairman Wood welcomed Shawn Coope, who is a Commissioner Elect. A recount had been requested and will be scheduled Saturday, March 20, 2021. After the recount we will know the elected official and then swear him in. The Chairman invited Shawn Coope as the preliminary winner to observe the Commission Meeting.

Elect 2021 Chairman

Chairman Wood asked if there was a motion or movement for Chairman.

Commissioner O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to have Chairman Wood continue on being the Chairman. Commissioner Wood seconded. Roll call vote: Bob O'Brien – yes, and Steve Wood – yes, Members voted, the motion passed.

Activity Reports

Chief Rondeau reported on the following activity reports for the month of February:

Incidents: He reported that there were 46 incidents. An increase over January but that is a standard increase we see this time of year.

Offenses by month: He reported 69 offenses last month.

Arrest status report: He reported a total of 25 arrests. The average number of arrests per month is between 33 and 35.

Collisions YTD and Accidents by street name: He reported 3 accidents during the month of February.

Traffic stops YTD and location breakdown report: He reported 131 traffic stops and 2 tickets were issued out of those stops. We will begin to see these numbers increase in the coming summer months.

Personnel Analysis report: Shared the information with the Commissioners in their packets.

Detectives Report: Read Report into record. Please see attached.

School Resource Officer (SRO): Read Report into record. Please see attached.

Chief's Items

Chief Rondeau read his report. Please see attached.

Captain's Items

Captain Livie reported that the SAU #49 had a Board Meeting on March 9th and voted for the school to go back five days a week starting April 5th. He wanted to make the public aware that we will see an increase in traffic in the morning and afternoon because of the students going back 5 days a week.

Questions from the Press

None

Commissioner's Items

Chairman Wood shared that the next meeting will be virtual on April 15, 2021 at 4:00 pm. He is looking forward to the days of meeting together at Town Hall again.

Chairman Wood spoke about a subject that he found troubling related to an article in the Feb. 11th edition of the Granite State News. A member of the public, who is also a member of the Budget Committee, but the Chairman believes he was representing himself, wrote a letter to the editor entitled "Rondeau painted an inaccurate picture of the Police Budget". Chairman Wood takes exception to that and he wanted to take a moment to set the record straight. With regards to the letter, he would like the public to understand that it is true that there were staff reductions in 2020. The final vacancy was not filled until the beginning of 2021. Last year, 2020, was very challenging. He went on to explain that when the budgets are presented, they are close to the requested directive of having a zero percent increase in discretionary spending as possible. The majority of the budget is made up of non-discretionary items. Our budgets are full of items with fixed costs (i.e., Union Contracts, gasoline, retirement, and phones). A budget is a best laid plan to get through the coming year, that also includes numbers in the budget that are based on previous years expenses and then planning for the unknowns. The Chairman commended the Command Staff present and previous (Chief Chase and LT. Rondeau) for how they have maintained a very tight budget and have come in at the end of the year with money to return to the Town coffers. Understanding that a lot of the budget is an amount of money that we don't have a lot of control over because of fixed costs that are already established. The only items that would get asked for, that are additional expenses, would be the addition of a police cruiser, the addition of personnel, and/or the addition of equipment or replacement of equipment that is needed.

Chairman Wood went on to say, getting back to the letter by Mr. Tougher (who was invited to join the meeting but declined), that the letter said that over the last ten budget cycles the Police budget has gone up and has not seen a budget decrease. The Chairman's reply to that was budgets do increase because of costs that increase that are not in our control. Last year due to the cuts that were made to the budget it impacted the police department's ability to deliver services. We want to deliver services to the Town and more importantly are expected to deliver to the Town. Last summer there were many complaints on social media about the Department's lack of police presence. The Commission also had met with the Cotton Valley Rail Trail Committee and they were pleading with us for help on the bike path. The plan was to have a part time bike patrol officer over the summer. However, many of the plans had gone by the wayside due to cuts.

Chairman Wood referred to the Budget Committee's minutes where a motion was made to remove two months of salary from the Police Budget (the minutes have been included see attachment). This was not for a new officer but to fill a vacancy. He wants the public to understand that for the safety of the Town, every shift that the Department has is filled, regardless of the money being removed or not. Those shifts must be filled and the cost increases because the shifts are paid with other employees at an overtime rate versus straight pay rate. It then makes the cut of \$15,065.14 become considerably more because the overtime budget was overspent by about \$32,000, which had to come from other lines. The overtime line has a programmed amount based on previous years and it was overspent by double the amount of what was removed from the budget. By removing a couple months of salary and benefits, it had an adverse effect on our budget. The Chairman feels that you can not take money out of an existing position that has to be filled to save money.

Chairman Wood went on and referred to a part of the letter that alludes to the new Public Safety Building or Police Station that is scheduled to be built by 2024. Chairman Wood is not on that committee and asked Chief Rondeau if that date is correct.

Chief Rondeau responded that it should be a 2023 construct with a completion date of 2024. Those dates are still fairly fluid.

Chairman Wood replied that there is a comment in the letter that says that the new building could add several hundred of thousands of dollars to the Operating budget. That is not actually true because it would come under debt services. Things like buildings and major undertakings are bonded and that is a different undertaking.

Chairman Wood agrees with Mr. Tougher in his assessment that we have a terrific police department. We are fortunate to have such a high caliber of officers. We receive a lot of praise and a lot of thanks and we are grateful for that.

Chairman Wood asked Mark to bring up the minutes again from the Budget Committee and pointed out the section where Chief Rondeau recommended that removing monies should not be done. The minutes from December of 2019 show the budget cut and the department had to best navigate the year as they could. However, during the Town Meeting the Town voted to fund Article 14 which would provide funding for employee leave time buyout for retirements. In the past departments have struggled to pay out that money because of not knowing when someone would retire. For the Police Department, we did know that one person would be retiring. However, then a second person decided to retire, and the first person moved up his retirement date. They both went out on June 1, 2020. As soon as we knew we had two officers retiring the Captain reached out to find out about the Article 14 fund. Only to find out that the fund was not going to be funded until later in the year because of COVID-19 or maybe not at all because of not knowing if the revenue stream would be affected because of COVID-19. The revenue stream did maintain healthy, but the line was never funded, and the Department had to pay for two buyouts. That was a very large amount of money to come out of our budget and by July 4th we were down 4 people. All shifts were being covered to provide safety to the Town...but while this is happening, we were burning out our officers. We were fortunate that our officers rose to the occasion and we did not have an officer out with COVID. It was a difficult year to navigate. Chairman Wood encouraged the public to reach out if they have any questions. The Commission and Department are transparent and have nothing to hide. We have a good working relationship with the Town Manager and Selectman but does not feel that way with the Budget Committee and does not know why. He would like to have a good working relationship with them moving forward.

Chairman Wood asked Commissioner O'Brien if there was anything he would like to add?

Commissioner O'Brien responded by complimenting Chairman Wood on how presented the information and giving it out freely to the public. As well as possibly some of the Budget Committee members who may be listening so they can get a better understanding. Commissioner O'Brien feels we have to have a better working relationship with the Budget Committee so they will understand the difficulties that we have in dealing with things. We are unique among many of the departments in New Hampshire because Wolfeboro has a Police Commission, and it works closely with the Police Department to have a better-balanced budget. We also have liaisons from the Budget Committee that work with us and they have a better understanding of difficulties we have to face.

Chairman Wood replied that Commissioner O'Brien makes a good point and that we all work for the same people – the voters of Wolfeboro. Chairman Wood felt bad about having to go to the floor to have motion to have funds put back in the budget. His intention is not to burden the taxpayers. For example, with the need of replacing cruisers. The Police Department was down four police cruisers and a one in and one

out model is what they would like to get to per the asset management plan. Every year it is the same fight to try and get a police cruiser. The cruisers are a necessary piece of equipment for the officers to do their job. The command staff has identified a need for eleven cruisers. The cruisers need to be rotated so that not everyone of them is running 24/7. When a cruiser breaks down, that is one less that is available to use and with parts being difficult to get, it can take two to three weeks to a cruiser repaired. We want to develop a better understanding, so we don't have to talk about the same issues year after year.

Chairman Wood asked Chief Rondeau if he wanted to add anything.

Chief Rondeau responded by thanking Commissioner Wood for setting the record straight. He went on to point out that the minutes that the Captain put up were from the Budget Committee. They clearly show the Budget Committee Chair cutting money from the Police Department Budget. It was a cut not the Chief misrepresenting the budget.

DISCUSSION

Board of Selectmen's Representative

None

Public Comment

Being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Wood entertained a motion to enter non-public session to discuss personnel.

Commissioner O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission enter into non-public session RSA 91 A: 3, a to discuss personnel items at 5:17 PM. Commissioner Wood seconded. Roll call vote: Bob O'Brien-yes, and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.

The Commission re-entered public session at 6:10 PM.

Being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Wood entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Bob O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to adjourn at 6:10 PM. Commissioner Wood seconded. Roll call vote: Bob O'Brien-yes, and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Moore

Monthly Activity for February 2021

This past month, twenty (20) cases were carried over from January 2021. For the month of February 2021, Det. Emerson investigated nine (9) new cases. The cases below represent all the incident and arrest for the month of February.

Five (5) cases were investigated as felonies and four (4) cases were investigated as misdemeanor level offenses. At the end of February 2021, Det. Emerson was able to clean up some of his lingering case load and close out cases from previous months.

Detective Emerson received a sexual assault case from the Gilford Police Department (Detectives) which was disclosed to the Gilford Police.

Detective Emerson is handling two (2) separate sexual assault cases involving students at an area school. During the investigation, Detective Emerson has discovered additional crimes including but not limited to: Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault, Sexual Assault, Simple Assault, Gross Lewdness, Computer Acts Prohibited, Interference with Freedom, Criminal Restraint, and Endangering the Welfare of a child. Incidentally, tan additional charge of Possession of Child Sexual Images could also be forthcoming pending the results of a search warrant.

These sexual assault cases are time sensitive and require a large part of Detective Emerson's time. Detective Emerson conducted interviews at the Child Advocacy Center with the victims in these cases. The Child Advocacy Center is a place where the victims of a crime, that are sensitive in nature, can sit and tell their story. Their story is captured on audio and video so that the victim does not have to relive the

traumatic event(s) over and over by the telling their story multiple times.

Detective Emerson will be meeting with the County Attorney next week to finalize charges.

Cases Assigned/Investigated

2 Theft

1 Fraud

1 Motor Vehicle Accident

3 Sexual Assaults

1 Assault

1 Extortion

Percentage of cases closed this month 39%

Percentage of new cases closed by arrest during the month 0%

Percentage of entire case load closed 40%

WOLFEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DEVINE MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 2021

The month of February was Officer Devine's sixth month as the SRO with one week off due to February vacation which resulted in only twelve days of school. Ofc. Devine was still dealing with truancy issues. A trend that has been consistent with the High School and Middle School is that students are not going to school and not reporting online remotely resulting in several welfare checks and DCYF notifications with the families. Officer Devine worked with other officers from the police department to interview students regarding incidents that did not occur at school.

Two female students had skipped classes for majority of the day. They were later found in the Art Center bathroom with THC vapes. One female was charged through a juvenile petition.

Conducted several truancy checks in February in the district. Majority of the students have either shown up to school or remote afterwards. Ofc. Devine has received compliments from the principals after the truancy checks. During one of the truancy checks, Ofc. Devine learned where the students were buying THC vapes in Rochester. Ofc. Devine advised the liquor commission who searched the store the following day.

Officer Devine also assisted the administration at the High School regarding several students skipping classes and leaving campus.

Officer Devine reported several cases to DCYF-physical assault-runaway, two separate cases involving truancy and one regarding suicidal ideations with the lack of stability from the parent to make a mental health appointment. OPD assisted with welfare checks.

During a morning drop-off duty Ofc. Devine observed a student with shot gun shells hanging from his backpack. Ofc. Devine stopped him, he was extremely respectful and cooperative. Ofc. Devine took his backpack and searched his person for weapons with nothing found. Ofc. Devine gave the backpack to Principal Donnelly who searched the backpack with nothing found. The shotgun shells were empty shells that were there because he wanted to show off his, "first kill" from hunting.

TO: Wolfeboro Police Commission

FROM: Dean J. Rondeau
Chief of Police

SUBJ: Chief's Items (February 2021) for 18 March 2021 Wolfeboro Police
Commission meeting

DATE: 10 March 2021

Non- Public: I have one item for Non-public Session under personnel, hiring.

GENERAL BUDGET ITEMS:

We conducted our first FY 21 Budget review as the Town Budget passed on 9 March, along with all our Warrant articles. Our end of Quarter (1st Qtr. FY 21 Budget Review) will occur during the April Commission meeting. So far with our FY 21 Budget there are no issues to report.

PERSONNEL:

Officer Peaslee continues to make progress in his FTO program. He is scheduled to come out of the FTO program sometime in May. I will continue to keep the Commission informed.

Operations (Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions):

In terms of Police investigations and Operations, February was very busy for a 28-day Month. This is reflected in our arrest, incident, Motor Vehicle activity charts and our Detective Status Reports. In Addition to all this, we remain involved in the five (5) car motor vehicle crash incident on South Main Street and that investigation is still ongoing.

Additionally, we remain engaged in the fatal crash on College Road. This single car motor vehicle crash claimed the life of a promising young man. This is truly tragic. Investigations such as these take time, so please be patient as we work through both are very troubling and disturbing incidents. As always, I will keep the Commission informed.

I will keep the Commission informed as we proceed in these investigations.

In terms of Police Prosecutions, this past month was busy. Tis past month we had 15 defendants (15) defendants respond to fifteen (15) charges. Of those charges, eleven (11) were found or plead guilty, 2 cases were dismissed because of Richards or 5th Amendment type defenses (both cases were Domestic Violence related), and two (2)

cases were placed on file pending good behavior, with other court ordered or directed actions, such as restitution or alcohol and drug treatment added as part of their sentences.

The conviction rate is this past month is one hundred (86.67%) with \$1,1^{96.00}~~996~~.00 dollars meted out in fines, restitution, and penalties.

Safety and Security matters: We have already seen the weather turn. Spring is on the way-whether we like it or not, it is right around the corner. Please pay attention to the pedestrians out and about, and the wintertime sand, and leaves on the roadway. Soon our very talented work crews will be out cleaning up our roads, but these materials on the roadway surfaces represent a hazard and make the roads a little more slippery when on dry pavement or wet asphalt. Please drive carefully and allow extra time when going to and from your daily business. Lastly, during significant weather events if you don't have to go out-don't. A vast majority of our crashes occur during periods of inclement weather. Plan for needs, cancel non-important appointments or events, lease be safe.

Dispatch: NSTR

Motor Vehicle Enforcement: In an effort to mitigate the traffic crashes we realize monthly, we will be continuing a strong proactive approach to motor vehicle enforcement, and traffic stops. As a warning to those residents in the North Wolfeboro Area, I have received complaints about speeders on College Road and Stoddard Roads. We will be conducting aggressive speed reduction patrols in those areas of Town-so please, if you are in a habit of speeding up there, don't! Lastly, we continue to deploy assets and patrols to our identified problem areas-Safety First!

That being said: The Department is continuing its enhanced speed enforcement operations in the following areas: Lehner Street, Forrest Road, Cotton Valley and College Road to Stoddard Road; Beach Pond Road with a focus on the area between Pine Hill Road and North Line Road, Center Street, North Main Street, 109 East, Bay Street and Sewell Road. The reason for these speed enforcement operations is due to citizen complaints and data collected and analyzed by our radar trailer. We will continue our efforts in these areas until we are sure that the speeds have come down. If you travel these roads, please be mindful of the posted speed limits.

Training: *Felonies First Training ; Traffic Reconstruction ; Internal Affairs Investigation*

Police: NSTR

DISPATCH: NSTR

OUTREACH AND MATTERS OF INTEREST:

I hope you all enjoyed the PDs latest rounds of Community Outreach with our Winni Dip; put on to raise money for NH Special Olympics. We have been supporting this effort for the last 50 years or so, and we were able to raise over \$5,000.00 dollars for that very special cause. If you missed the fun, you could tune into this on our Facebook page and see the dippers jumping into the lake where the water temp was 30 degrees, and the air was 14-degrees-it was cold-BURRRR! If you would still like to be counted and donate to this very worthwhile cause, you may still do so until the end of March. None of the money goes to the PD and all the proceeds go to NH Special Olympics to support that organizations very important events for children.

Both the Captain and I met with concerned citizens regarding a wide range of issues and community topics.

I am now conducting a weekly talk radio show with Erick Scot of WASR. The show is a one-hour feature with call in and we discuss relevant topics of interest. Please be our guest on this show each Monday at 12 Noon. Please call in and ask your questions and join in the discussion-let's get involved and solve community issues or simply have a good time! All are welcome!

Both the Captain and I attended a wide range of Budget related and Town meetings with various groups and committees as we proceed through the budget process.

The Both the Captain and I spoke on Wolfeboro Community TV this past month.

The Captain continues to be part of the Master Planning process, the Technical Review and Joint loss committees, and I continue to serve on the Governor's Commission for the humane and ethical treatment of animals.

Lastly, please be our guest on Coffee and Connections with the Chief.

Safety Tip of the Month: It is warming up, get your equipment and bob houses off the ice. Fail to do so at your own peril.

BUDGET ANALYSIS:

Gentlemen, there will be a 2021 First Quarter review in April after the recent FY 21 Budget has been uploaded into our budget system by the Town's Finance Officer. Until that time, we cannot conduct any meaningful analysis on the budget as it will not be accurate. Though I conducted an analysis and review of our present budget with my Command Staff on 11 March, we did not see any issues which required any special attention. I will send out the updated budgets and financials in early April 2021 for that review.

Gentlemen, subject to your questions, that is all I have.

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO
BUDGET COMMITTEE
December 30, 2019
Minutes**

Members Present: John MacDonald, Chairman, Paul O'Brien, Selectmen's Representative, Linda Murray, Selectman's Alternate Representative, Matt Plache, Steve Johnson, Brian Black, John Burt, Robert Loughman, Bob Moholland, Members.

Members Absent: Bob Tougher, Vice-Chairman, Tom Bell, Member.

Staff Present: Jim Pineo, Town Manager, Troy Neff, Finance Director, Lee Ann Hendrickson, Administrative Secretary.

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

The Committee participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENCIES

John MacDonald stated the Town Manager's office sent a certified mail notice to Northern Human Services and Carroll County Transit requesting their attendance at tonight's meeting.

Northern Human Services; \$7,449
No representative present.

John MacDonald asked if any word has been received from a representative of Northern Human Services following the certified mail notice.

Jim Pineo replied no and noted his office both called and sent a certified mailing to the organization.

It was moved by Robert Loughman and seconded by Steve Johnson to decrease the funding request for Northern Human Services from \$7,449 to \$3,700.

Discussion of the motion:

Robert Loughman stated his initial reaction is to zero out the funding request since a representative has not attended any meetings. He stated he is being kind to cut the amount in half.

John MacDonald asked if a representative attend the BOS meeting.

Jim Pineo stated the agency contacted the Town Manager's office stating they couldn't attend the 9/18/19 BOS meeting and requested attendance at the 10/9/19 BOS meeting.

The Committee reviewed the back-up information provided by the agency.

It was moved by Robert Loughman and seconded by Steve Johnson to decrease the funding request for Northern Human Services from \$7,449 to \$3,700. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

Carroll County Transit; \$4,000

John MacDonald stated Brenda Gagne, Carroll County Transit, has requested to attend the next Budget Committee meeting due to the snowstorm (she is traveling from 10 miles north of Berlin, NH. He rescheduled Carroll County Transit to attend the 1/6/20 Budget Committee meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Pineo distributed his memo, dated 12/30/19, addressing expenditures that had been proposed for 2020 operating budget as capital outlay requests that were voted by the BOS to expend from the 2019 operating budget (Codes Officer Chevrolet Colorado pickup truck - \$21,450 and equipment for Wolfeboro Community Television - \$19,931.99). Relative to the Codes Officer's vehicle, he stated the Town was able to secure State of NH bid pricing for \$24,054 with \$3,500 trade-in allowance allowing the Town purchase the vehicle for \$21,450. He noted the only capital outlay request is for a vehicle for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$43,125. He also stated the budget adjustment for the Town Manager's pay raise was not included in the budget; noting the change to the budget was made today.

It was moved by Robert Loughman and seconded by John Burt to increase Town Manager Supervisory Salaries as described in Jim Pineo's memo, dated 12/30/19. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

Jim Pineo reviewed the following fund balances;

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| General Fund, including Capital Outlay | increase of 1.28% |
| Water Fund | increase of 3.02% |
| Electric Fund | decrease of 1.42% |
| Sewer Fund | increase of 0.86% |
| Pop Whalen Fund | decrease of 12.45% |
| Total | increase of 0.26% |

Referencing the Pop Whalen boiler, Jim Pineo stated the Committee requested Christine Collins to retrieve cost estimates to separate the hot water from heating the work room. He stated the Town spoke with the vendor who stated the original proposal is the most efficient way to address the issue.

It was moved by Robert Loughman and seconded by John Burt to maintain the inclusion of the Pop Whalen boiler Capital Outlay request in the amount of \$9,999. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

FINAL BUDGET REVIEW

Referencing the Police budget, John Burt asked why the telephone costs were shifted from the Police budget to the Communications budget.

Mark Livie stated the Communications budget is a better spot for the funds since telephone is communication. He stated the Police officer's cell phones had to be upgraded; noting the cost for the cell phones increased from \$15 to \$35 for each phone. He stated the funding request also includes the cost of a phone for the 14th police officer.

John MacDonald asked why the Police Budget's telephone line shows an increase; noting there should be a decrease of \$17,000 in such since it was transferred to the Communications budget.

Mark Livie stated the telephone line in the Police budget reflects the cell phone upgrades (\$6,479) and connectivity to the three additional mobile data terminals (MDT). He stated the line also includes cell phone stipends in the amount of \$720.

John MacDonald asked when the new officer will begin work.

Mark Livie stated the physical agility test is scheduled for 1/4/20 however, doesn't believe the officer will start for a couple months.

John MacDonald asked if a start date of March 1st is more accurate.

Mark Livie replied yes.

John MacDonald questioned the total savings if the new officer started employment on 3/1/20.

Troy Neff replied \$15,065.14.

John MacDonald asked if such includes benefits.

Troy Neff replied yes.

It was moved by John MacDonald and seconded by Robert Loughman to decrease the Police budget (01-42100) by \$15,065.14 to reflect changes to hourly wages, social security and retirement relative to the start of employment for the new police officer.

Discussion of motion:

John MacDonald asked Chief Rondeau his thoughts.

Dean Rondeau stated he thinks it is a really bad idea and shouldn't do it. He stated the Police Department is not a 9 am - 5 pm operation; noting that when that shift goes unfilled, he has to fill it from either overtime wages or part time wages. He stated he does not recommend cutting the funds.

John Burt stated over the past 8-10 years there has been \$30,000 left unexpended on average each year therefore, doesn't feel the amount being decreased is that critical.

John MacDonald stated the person/officer doesn't currently exist that is why he is recommending the reduction of the budget.

Dean Rondeau stated admittedly, he would be using that money to fund filling the position. He asked the Committee to split the difference to help fund the shift.

It was moved by John MacDonald and seconded by Robert Loughman to decrease the Police budget (01-42100) by \$15,065.14 to reflect changes to hourly wages, social security and retirement relative to the start of employment for the new police officer. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

Referencing Patriotic Purposes, Steve Johnson noted the line was increased to include an electronic display and recommended decreasing the funding request from \$13,000 to \$11,000 (last year's funding request).

It was moved by Steve Johnson and seconded by John Burt to decrease Patriotic Purposes from \$13,000 to 11,000.

John Burt confirmed the use of an electronic display this past year because the Fire Department recommended such because it is safer.

It was moved by Steve Johnson and seconded by John Burt to decrease Patriotic Purposes from \$13,000 to 11,000. Steve Johnson voted in favor. Robert Loughman, Matt Plache, Bob Moholland, John Burt, John MacDonald, Brian Black opposed. The motion failed.

The Committee reviewed the capital outlay requests for all funds.

Troy Neff stated the total 2020 operating budget is \$28,295,720.96; noting a .19% increase over the 2019 operating budget (\$53,463.96 increase). He stated the increase is primarily due to the additional week of payroll).

It was moved by Robert Loughman and seconded by Bob Moholland to adopt the 2020 Operating Budget in the amount of \$28,295,720.96.

Discussion of the motion:

John Burt stated he spent a lot of time reviewing the budget; noting a very big disparity in the pay ranges of supervisory salaries. He stated he did not review the Town Manager or Finance Director's figures. He stated he

used the same calculation for each year (amount of pay for first 13 weeks and 39 weeks of pay that included the pay increase). He stated some salaries increased by 5.6% and recommends all supervisory salaries be refigured to reflect a 3.9% increase.

It was moved by John MacDonald to set aside the motion to adopt the 2020 Operating Budget to allow for John Burt to recommend changes to supervisory salaries. Matt Plache seconded. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

John Burt recommended to following decreases to the following budgets to reflect a 3.92% pay increase; Town Clerk - \$1,056, Tax Collector - \$24, Town Planner - \$35, Code Officer - \$228, Public Works Administration – 1,033.95, Buildings and Grounds - \$537, Sewer - \$520, Water Distribution - \$62, Electric - \$1,300 and Parks and Recreation - \$25.

Jim Pineo stated that when issuing raises to personnel there is an accounting report that depicts existing and proposed wages that aligns with the BOS approved pay increase and the collective bargaining agreement. He stated the PAR's will reflect the wishes of the BOS and language of the collective bargaining agreement.

John Burt stated in some cases there were employees receive a 5.5% pay increase and noted that some of the budgets did not include back-up information to support the increase. He stated he blames the Town Manager and the BOS for the disparity.

Paul O'Brien clarified the discussion is a supervisory salaries conversation and not a collective bargaining conversation.

John MacDonald asked if the Town Manager could ensure that the employees receive the figures noted in the budget.

Jim Pineo replied yes.

It was moved by Robert Loughman and seconded by Steve Johnson to recommend the 2020 Town of Wolfeboro Operating Budget in the amount of \$28,295,720.96. Robert Loughman, Matt Plache, Bob Moholland, Steve Johnson, John MacDonald, Brian Black voted in favor. John Burt abstained. The motion passed.

Consideration of Minutes

None.

It was moved by John Burt and seconded by Steve Johnson to adjourn the December 30, 2019 Budget Committee meeting. All members voted in favor.

Next meeting scheduled for January 6, 2020, 6:30 PM at the Community Center; agenda to include warrant articles and review of the following agencies; Carroll County Transit and Northern Human Services.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Hendrickson

Lee Ann Hendrickson