

Selectmen's minutes of the work session meeting Dec. 6, 2018

Members present: Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke, George Riley, Fred Ventresco,
Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Fred prepared and presented the following budgets:

Fire Department:

Ambulance Intercept is going up by \$140.

Berkshire Sheriffs control increasing from \$9,827 to \$10,024.

Fire & Ambulance Equipment expenses up by 1%.

Fire/EMT training increasing from \$4,000 to \$6,700, increase is due to re certifications.

Fire/EMT salaries increase 2%

Fire Chief salary increase 2%

Fire/EMT compensation salary increase 2%

Fire and Ambulance Maintenance increase by 6% due to mandated service contracts

Fire House rentals Station 1 and 2 increase by 2%

Memorial Day Parade level funded

Police Dept.:

Overall increase of 26%. Fred will contact the Police Chief as there is some confusion regarding salaries. There is not an "apples to apples" comparison and the actuals from FY2018 are not included. Fred will ask him to provide the FY2018 actuals and a breakdown of the budget so it is consistent for comparisons, request an explanation as to how the salary is \$27,000 more and get a quote for lettering the vehicles. George will contact the chief to discuss the lettering of the vehicles.

Emergency Management Director: No increase, level funded

Inspector of Animals: Increase in salary of 2%, up by \$10.00.

Cultural Council: Level funded at \$250.00

Southern Berkshire Regional Planning Comm: Level funded at \$500.00

Yanner Park Comm: They are requesting \$15,000. The selectmen appreciate their detailed outline but would like to have a good conversation with them. They want to make sure there is enough funding to do the driveway properly the first time. Fred will contact them to come in to discuss with the board.

Council on Aging: They requested an increase of \$250 for an air conditioner. They will not need to budget for that as it should come out of the Operation and Maintenance expense account. Their budget is therefor level funded.

Board of Health: They are increasing the hours for the secretary from 2 hours a week to 4 hours a week and applying a 2% increase. All in favor of the increase but would like a detail of what the 4 hours a week will entail.

Town Share Medicare: Increased by 2%, up by \$180.00

Berkshire County Retirement: Reduced by \$500.00

Unemployment Insurance: Level funded

Veterans Benefits: This is mandated and based on need. Increasing by \$5,400.

Veterans Service Benefits: This is mandated and is based on a formula. There is a slight increase of \$72.00.

Treasurers Tax Lien Expense: This is a roll over account. They are requesting \$15,000

Animal Control/Dog Officer: Decreasing expenses by \$400.00. Salary level funded

Insurance Premiums and Bonds: This is an estimated increase of 8% from \$53,351 to \$56,992

Finance Committee: Increasing by 8%, from \$1,825 to \$1,975 for expenses for copying and mileage. Level funded for secretary salary.

Discussion on whether \$1,500 is enough for the secretary pay especially this time of the year, they have a lot of inquiries which are currently being supplied by the Town Accountant and Town Administrator,

Reserve Fund: Level funded at \$15,000

Conservation Commission: Increase in salary by 2% all else level funded. The budget went from \$2,754 to \$2,780.

Cemetery Committee: They are requesting a \$100 stipend for all members. We will continue this discussion next week.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Mark Newman

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley

