

Selectmen's minutes of work session meeting January 10, 2019

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

Called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Fred presented the following budgets:

Revised Recreation Committee Budget, reviewed and approved.

Library is up by 13%, it went from \$15,844 to 17,855. Increases are due to the purchase of new shelving and increase in salary. The Library Trustees have an agreement with the Librarian that once she received her certification she would get a \$1.00 increase. Adjustment was made to the hourly rate to add the \$1.00 after the 2% increase. The \$1.00 takes effect mid year. Fred will make the correction and let them know. Budget reviewed and approved.

Town Administrator budget up by 3%. The total budget went from \$71,065 to \$73,140. The salary went up 2% from \$68,250 to \$69,615. Fred explained that when he was hired the town agreed to pay all of his insurance benefit cost which is included in his salary. Expenses went from \$2,815 to \$3,525 due to the cost of the MMA convention, \$500 for office supplies and \$500 for subscriptions. Dues are \$650 per yea. George asked for narratives for the new items or increases. Budget reviewed and approved.

Police Department:

There are two issues of concern, the chiefs stipend and increase in patrol hours. The \$5,000 stipend is in line with surrounding towns, to increase it to \$7,500 would put us to high. The hourly rate for the police chief is \$23.93 which is the highest hourly rate in our area. Discussed calling the "stipend" for "on call hours". All agree the \$5,000 stipend is reasonable and will not increase it. Discussed the lettering of the police vehicles. The Chief responded that he would only budget for one vehicle to be lettered as he wants the "element of surprise" with an unmarked vehicle. George recommending increasing the line for the marking of vehicles to budget enough to mark them all. All approved the budget with the stipend level funded at \$5,000, double the budget for marking the vehicles, only increasing the weekly patrol hours to 24 in lieu of 32. Fred will make the adjustments and let the Police Dept. know.

Zoning Board of Appeals, we have not had a budget for several years, this has been an inactive board. They now will start to meet. We will budget \$500 for expenses.

Fred reviewed the total bottom line budget numbers: FY2019 \$3,201,103, FY2020 \$3,355,273. We should be ok with prop. 2 ½. Dolores pointed out that we do not have the school budget yet.

Discussed the Stabilization Budget, reviewed and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Mark Newman

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley