

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS COUNTY OF NEWPORT

The Town Council of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Special Meeting on Saturday, the 7th day of February 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tiverton Town Hall, 343 Highland Road at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Council President deMedeiros, Vice President Chabot, Councilor Lambert, Councilor Mello, Councilor Pelletier, Councilor Perry and Councilor Sousa Town Administrator was not present

1. Call To Order

Council President deMedeiros called the Council to order with a pledge of allegiance to the flag and roll call.

Overall Discussion and Possible Votes on FY 2015/2016 Budget

Council President informed the final budget approved by Council must be submitted to the Budget Committee(B/C) by March 4th. Prior vote of Council had forwarded the proposed budget to the B/C as a working document.

B/C member Madeline O'Dell commented on the format of the docket and requested any ideas on how the docket should be presented, line item or bottom line. Clerk will continue to track the proposed budget and will keep up with the changes and update Council documents. Presentation of the docket is responsibility of the B/C.

Tax Assessor – Dave Robert - Discussion on key items:

Telephone – internal phones and quarterly reimbursement to Assessor for personal data plan portion

Mileage – remained at 1000

Professional/Tech Services – decreased over years, updates Tax Assessor maps with subdivisions and mergers, outside vendor

GIS Update /Data Layers – another outside vendor which converts the maps to the GIS data base

Education/Seminars – in house for GIS one class \$750, requirements have increased over years

Supplies – decreased, requested 6,000, looking to lease new copier, discussing central location for copier, working internally with Administrator

Printing – tangible forms, etc. – reduced over years

Software Maintenance – annual contracts with opal/vision – share same vender with Collector, Building Official all separate maintenance agreements

GIS Web Hosting – hosts our GIS system annual cost

Revaluation – annual amount set at 53k obligation 9 year cycle, 2 updates and one full. Restricted account should cover total costs. General Assembly trying to change cycle to 2 revals in 10 yrs. Not sure if will pass.

Revenues – Only numbers from Assessor's office are Town values, tangible and real estate which should have by late April since a revaluation year. Hope to have hard numbers on motor vehicles within next 3 weeks, locked in at 19.14. Town kept the 6,000 exemption so may have some wiggle room there. Notices should go to property owners last week of March then review process begins. Addressed Rep. Edward's bill relative to not taxing new construction until the property sells. Last year bill was overwhelmingly passed by House and Senate but Governor vetoed.

Councilor Sousa recused - Tax Collector is relative

Tax Collector – Toni Lyn McGowan

Salaries – set by AFSCME contract

Phone – 2 lines and fax, talk of consolidating fax but has heavy use in collection daily

Supplies & Misc – tax bill printing, trying to come up with better process to avoid issues of last year

Consulting Services – Rossi Collection Agency, numbers vary

Software Maintenance – Vision, continue to expand, hope to open options for payment on line, still reviewing.

Postage – majority goes to tax bills, lot used for delinquent notices

Tax Sale – covers cost of what does not sell at tax sale, this year used \$2900

Discussed process of collection prior to sending to collection agency. Notices sent in house after every quarter on real estate and twice a year on motor vehicle. Only send to Rossi if 2 years delinquent when no longer can block at registry. Clerk commented regarding postage there is a Town Council policy that the postage machine must be used. Issue was raised by the Budget Committee on bulk postage used by collector and purchasing rolls of stamps. Policy allows control on stamp purchases.

Councilor Sousa returned to table

Fire Department – Chief Lloyd

Council President thanked Fire Chief for working endless hours over last couple days with storms. Thanked for dedication.

Chief was not sure on some numbers, will meet with Administrator when returns for further discussion.

Salaries- Captain's fine; Firefighters shown different this year broken by rank. Appears 20k shortage on bottom line numbers, primarily in 3rd class salaries.

Clerk salary- contractual with AFSCME

Overtime – budgeted amount is issue, only 175k will not get through the year

Councilor deMedeiros commented Administrator trying to find a solution, negotiating 2 extra floaters, talking with union and some will be in future needs. Administrator's plan will be on Council agenda Monday.

Chief expressed bench is not deep enough, required by contract certain number working and need call back if people not there because of leave. Been in Town 10 years and overtime always issue with budget. Only time not over in budget for overtime is when added firefighters. Full shifts cut down on the overtime.

Salary Differential - has been cut but historically used

Longevity – some men moving up in years

Education – contractual for college level courses, believe good item, gets higher quality, required to pay for paramedic classes – no members currently applying

Clothing – contractual in negotiations

EMS Incentive – Last year big topic, increases were put in stipends instead of base salary in prior contracts

Fire Marshal – increase for additional hours

Councilor Sousa suggested use of State Fire Marshal Office. Chief responded they would charge more and everyone would need to go to Providence. State will get all revenue. Councilor deMedeiros informed Administrator will talk to this issue in negotiations relative to permanent Fire Marshal.

Seminar – Chief for certification classes

Operation expense - Switched NTFS to natural gas realized huge savings on fuel, Crandall Road had a new boiler creating savings. Last one to change is the south end station. Budgeted \$3.35 for oil, used approximately 4800 gallons. Natural gas more complex, still figuring numbers.

Tires - 700 per tire

Electricity - used average

Telephone – Hambly Road radio tower now under Police Dept. Already short this year, use a lot of lease lines increased from 700 to 1000 per month. Looking at alternatives, not cheap.

Water - slight savings

Sewer fee – currently on sewer line

Office Supplies – paper, etc. fire prevention

Firefighter training - ongoing classes

Minor Equipment Replacements – 2 years ago started program under capital to replace air packs and hoses. B/C and T/C wanted as line item in this area. Have the 5k for hose but nothing for air packs or bottles.

Councilor Pelletier informed under capital expense 25k. Chief not aware.

Hazardous Equipment – booms, pads, absorbent materials, try to get some back from commercial contractors but don't charge residents, just commercial vendors

Station/Building Maintenance – all 3 stations 50 year old. Some major issues, soffits, vinyl siding, interior stations need paint, ceilings. Guys done lot of work, repaired the roofs but Crandall Road station having problems on north wall, needs gutters. Councilors Perry and Sousa confirmed they have seen the issues at Crandall Station.

Apparatus Maintenance- would like to see more budgeted to stay on top and avoid huge expenses. Had 2 trucks down during storm, need to keep all running, small items add up

Equipment Service Contract – breakdown in packet, radio system generators, compressors, computers, billing, EMS software, etc

Radio Maintenance – replace batteries, microphones, radios

Medical Supplies – most patients go to St Anne's and Charlton and they bill back since not RI Hospitals. Also need supplies on hand

Personal & Protective Gear – Firefighting gear, life expectancy 10 yrs, allows 5 sets, hoods, masks, helmets, etc

Medical Physicals – huge advantage to do and required for respiratory protection. Not sure numbers works since cost for physicals 500 each

Software Maintenance – all tablets up to date and any new software

Medical Director – EMS –should have medical director to oversee EMS program. Also would have ability to sign off on paramedic recertification. Need overseeing position. Discussion for 2 years with St Anne's and Charlton about getting medical director. Would like to sign contract with St Anne's for physician overseer.

Operation Technology – was pager account, now used for recalling people, takes care of air cards, gets data in field to trucks and EMS reporting

Recruiting Process/Promotional Testing – Hiring and promotional testing process.

Chief raised issue with unfunded liability figures. Men that can retire need buy back for vacation and sick leave, currently exposure for 2 that could retire is 47k.

Councilor Perry questioned recruiting process and advertising of new hires. Chief keeps list and then re-advertises. Currently have pool of candidates but most are looking anywhere and had big hiring across state drawing down the pool. Also questioned capital expense of air packs. Chief has 30 air packs and approximately 100 bottles. 30k will buy 5 air packs.

In capital requesting a new ambulance but need 2 staff cars, just purchased used vehicle to tie over. Distributed picture of a 15 year old car which bought 6/7 years ago for 2000 that will not pass inspection. Councilor Sousa looked at equipment last year, suggests hold off on ambulance for another year and purchase new staff vehicles. Chief responded had 5 year plan in place that keeps getting pushed off. Equipment gets worse. Keeps switching cars less used.

Clerk informed election account is restricted account and B/C looking at 25k a year which will add 10k to bottom line. Secondly under Clerk budget advertising and ordinances is account set specifically for comp plan changes and zoning rewrite. Not sure where process is but cannot be carried forward. May need to put under Council account for next year.

Clerk will schedule another Special Meeting next Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Pelletier motioned, seconded by Councilor Perry to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.

A True Copy.

ATTEST: _____ Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk