

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2011

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:00pm by Budget Committee Chairperson Mr. Vadenais.

ROLL CALL 7:00pm: Present were Mrs. Bartomioli, Mrs. Nadeau, Mr. Puccetti, Mr. Vadenais, Ms. Vallee

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of the February 17th meeting was made by Ms. Bartomioli, seconded by Ms. Vallee and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Reynolds met with the Budget Committee to review the Police Department budget with the following discussion:

Chief Reynolds presented a 3 page document created 4/7/05 outlining the impact Dowling Village would have on the NS Police Department.

Q Ms. Nadeau-Who pays for the details?

A Chief Reynolds: All details are privately paid for unless it's for work done for the town.

Budget:

Mr. Brian Silvia stated that the Municipal Court is separate from the Police Department. Tom Lafleur and Darlene are involved with the Municipal Court as civilians, not as members of the Police Department.

Q Ms. Nadeau: How long do you expect a cruiser to last?

A Chief Reynolds: It has been 4 years since there was a new cruiser in North Smithfield. There was a plan in place up until 3 years ago to purchase 3 cruisers one year, 2 cruisers the next, 3 the next, etc. In the last 3 years mileage on the cruisers has climbed and 6 cruisers were auctioned off because they weren't functioning. 4 cruisers currently have more than 100,000 miles, 3 are approaching 80,000 miles. The town owns 1 SUV which is 11 years old. The SUV came in handy this winter however the chasis is rotting away and the vehicle is in poor mechanical condition. North Smithfield needs 6 new vehicles.

Q Ms. Vallee: Do you have a maintenance program?

A Chief Reynolds: The vehicles are on a monthly maintenance program. There were 4 new transmissions this year alone.

Q Mr. Puccetti: How many cruisers are there?

A Chief Reynolds: 15 vehicles altogether-11 marked cars, 8 are used on patrol-2 vehicles are used for backup and details only, one is the SUV Explorer; there are also 4 Tauruses-one for the chief, captain, and 2 detectives.

Q Mr. Vadenais: Why is the personnel budget figure up \$88,000?

A Chief Reynolds: Last year we had a retirement and a deployment in the armed services for ½ the year. Both of those positions are back in this year.

Q Ms. Vallee: What's the situation with the Fire Department?

A Chief Reynolds: The Police Department is following the mandate established after the Station Fire. A personnel member needs to be present with a prisoner to be able to escort him from the building in the event of a fire. The Police Department works with the Interlocal Trust (insurers for the town) to ensure compliance. Smaller departments are affected more than larger ones. Minimum staffing is 2 officers 1st shift, 3 officers on 2nd shift and 2 officers on 3rd shift. Going forward they would like to increase staff by 1 person on 2nd and 3rd shifts.

Q Mr. Vadenais: The budgeted amount for overtime is 10% of salaries-is that a norm?

A Chief Reynolds: Towns similar in size to NS like Warren or Barrington have overtime budgets 1-1/2 to 2 times larger than NS. There is no overtime abuse in NS. 75% of overtime is attributed to minimum manning and 25% to investigations and court time.

Q Mr. Puccetti: Is retirement mandatory?

A Chief Reynolds: No.

Q Ms. Bartomioli: Does a police officer have to respond to a call with the animal officer?

A Chief Reynolds: We use discretion-after hours the Police try to handle it.

Q Mr. Vadenais: How much involvement did you have in the police contract?

A Chief Reynolds: stated that he didn't want to get into who negotiated what.

Q Mr. Vadenais: Did you have input into the contract? It is a terrible contract.

A Chief Reynolds: The contract has another 2 years and nothing is going to change in the next 2 years.

Q Mr. Puccetti: Does the contract cause a lot of grievances?

A Chief Reynolds: Some but not an excessive amount.

Q Ms. Bartomioli: What are Contractual Services?

A Chief Reynolds: \$18,000 is for a tech person-Bruce Senecal who retired 18 months ago. The town has a 2 year contract with Bruce to operate special software for police departments.

Q Mr. Vadenais: Does having the Municipal Court in town reduce overtime?

A Chief Reynolds: No.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday March 3rd at 6:30pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm was made by Mr. Puccetti, seconded by Ms. Bartomioli and unanimously approved.

**Minutes respectfully submitted,
Merrie Nadeau**