

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY MARCH 14, 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 March 3rd meeting was made by Mr. Puccetti, seconded by Ms. Bartomioli and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

The date for the Public Hearing has been changed from Monday 3/28/11 to Tuesday 3/29/11 at 7:00pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Jillson, Mr. Dan O'Brien, and Mr. Paul Shatraw presented the budget for the Fire Department with the following discussion:

Mr. O'Brien provided and presented a 3 page budget summary for 2011/2012. The Fire Department budget is the second year of a 2 year

union contract which is up on 6/30/12.

Q Mr. Puccetti: How does the town pay the Fire Department?

A Mr. O'Brien: The Fire Department is paid monthly and makes its own disbursements. Operating expenses are decreasing due to payment of a loan.

Q Mr. Vadenais: What is the employee healthcare contribution?

A Mr. Shatraw: \$15 per week for a family plan.

Q Ms. Bartomioli: Is there a buyback or does everyone take the healthcare?

A Mr. Shatraw: The buyback is a fixed dollar amount and only 1 employee takes the buyback right now.

Q Mr. Vadenais: The last audit report stated that you have \$700,000 in cash-true?

A Mr. O'Brien: The actual figure is \$660,000 total-\$110,000 in restricted accounts, \$213,000 in liabilities, the roof at Primrose is replaced at \$45,000 so there's about \$200,000 of available cash-not a lot for a budget of more than \$2,000,000.

Q Ms. Bartomioli: How is the lawsuit going?

A Chief Jillson: It is in its 5th year-the suit has no justification, the woman couldn't perform her duties to even the minimum standard.

Q Mr. Vadenais: 3rd party billing-insurance companies pay for services that the town has already paid for. The money collected is for new equipment.

Chief Jillson: The Fire Department has not purchased a new piece of equipment in 11 years.

Mr. O'Brien: The Fire Department has no access to the 3rd Party Billing Fund.

Q Mr. Puccetti: The audit statement indicates that the Fire Department funds are not federally insured.

A Mr. O'Brien: all the money is at Navigant.

Q Mr. Puccetti: Firefighter pension contribution from the town is 15.084-why is it higher than everyone else?

Chief Jillson: Firefighters are eligible for retirement after 20 years at 50% of their salary. Most serve 30 years before retirement.

Q Ms. Bartomioli: Are there firefighters ready to retire?

A Chief Jillson: 5.

Mr. Shatraw: The mechanics position for the town is much needed! Trucks are town owned and we send them out for repairs at a cost of \$90/hour. If we had a mechanic it would save money.

Q Ms. Bartomioli: What about the hydrant rental?

A Chief Jillson: It's a town expense-nothing to do with the Fire Department.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday March 17th at 7:00pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm was made by Mr. Puccetti, seconded by Ms. Bartomioli and unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Merrie Nadeau