

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY MARCH 29, 2012

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

ROLL CALL 7:02pm: Present were Mrs. Bartomioli, Mrs. Nadeau, Mr. Puccetti, Mr. Vadenais, Ms. Vallee

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of the March 22th meeting was made by Mr. Puccetti, seconded by Ms. Bartomioli and after amending the minutes they were unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Before we began New Business Town Administrator Ms. Hamilton asked to read a rebuttal to an email she and Mr. Silvia had received that afternoon from Ms. Bartomioli. After reading her rebuttal Ms. Hamilton gave a copy to each of the Budget Committee members.

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

Q Ms. Nadeau: How many firefighters are there?

A Chief Jillson: 21 including the chief

Q Mr. Puccetti: May we have a roster?

A Chief Jillson: Yes I will get one to you.

Q Mr. Puccetti: Do injured firefighters collect both TDI and their own disability?

A Chief Jillson: Yes. The town has been to court to stop this double collection however the ruling was in favor of the firefighters so effectively they collect more money when injured than when they are on the job.

Q Ms. Bartomioli: How many dispatchers are there?

A Chief Jillson: 4 civilians and 4-5 firefighters who fill in part time at a reduced wage.

Q Ms. Bartomioli: Are there any retirements expected this year?

A Chief Jillson: Yes one in December.

Q Ms. Nadeau: Do you have an active contract now?

A Chief Jillson: Yes and it expires this June.

Q Mr. Puccetti: How come we don't have a balance sheet like we had last year?

A Mr. O'Brien: I will get the balance sheet to you.

Q Mr. Puccetti: Are you negotiating a new contract?

A Mr. O'Brien: Yes and we are not looking for an increase-we will go to the town with the \$2,450,903 request identical to the one being presented to the budget committee.

Q Mr. Puccetti: What do you do with the 3rd party billing ambulance monies?

A Chief Jillson: The town gets half of the money-usually half of about \$400,000. The Fire Department can't touch the monies unless it needs a new truck or ambulance. New equipment always comes out of the 3rd Party Billing Fund. The fund is in the town coffers and is also used to pay for instruction like the frequent medical re-certifications.

Comment Mr. Vadenais: We put a mechanic at the Town Barn so Fire Department vehicle maintenance could be completed there but it is not happening.

Comment Chief Jillson: We have unique vehicles and are reluctant to have maintenance done at the Town Barn.

Comment Mr. Pendergast: Our mechanic is not certified to do some of the work on Fire and Police vehicles-they can handle general maintenance.

Q Mr. Puccetti: The town pays \$45,000 for hydrant rentals-does the Fire Department pay anything?

A Chief Jillson: Woonsocket owns and maintains the hydrants-NS has nothing to do with them.

Mr. Pendergast was present to discuss the DPW Budget with the following discussion:

Mr. Penderast stated that as part of the town wide effort to “Cooperate and Consolidate” Parks and Rec has both the manpower and the equipment to take over snow plowing and field maintenance for the School Department resulting in a savings to the town of about \$100,000. All parties need to come to the table and work things out to avoid duplication. DPW would also like to undertake maintenance inside the School Department buildings.

Comment Ms. Vallee: Ms. Hamilton has formed a new committee which Ms. Vallee is part of with School Superintendent Lindberg; School Committee member Mr. Hemond; Ms. Hamilton; Mr. Silvia; and Ms. Scripsack. The committee is charged with determining the areas where the town can consolidate in order to reduce expenses.

Mr. Vadenais reminded Budget Committee members that we are presenting our recommendations Employment Contracts at the Town Council meeting Monday 4-2-12 and everyone is asked to attend.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday April 4th at 7:00pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm was made by Mr. Puccetti,

seconded by Ms. Bartomioli and unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Merrie Nadeau