

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.
LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM AT TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Leo Janssens II, Chair, Duncan Phyfe, Member, Nick Davis, Clerk, Chief Larry Barrett, Doug Briggs, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

- OPEN THE MEETING

Leo Janssens called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

- PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF FY15 BUDGET

Doug Briggs began with an overview of the FY15 budget. He stated that the School's budget would be out on February 11th. He then reviewed the Revenue and Expenses (debt).

Mr. Briggs discussed the additional new police officer and Chief Barrett gave an overview presentation noting that the detective position needs to be exclusive with the primary responsibility being investigations. He added that with an additional officer it would be easier to address school needs if they arise. He stated that Detective Rob Siano may be retiring in three years and Officer Les Holgerson will fill in when Siano is out and eventually take his place. He stated that he would advertise through the part-time ranks as they are already familiar with Ashburnham and the candidate would have to attend 21 weeks of Academy training. He also noted that right now Detective Siano doesn't have enough time to work with the Drug Task Force and with a new officer it would allow him to be involved.

Leo Janssens asked if the numbers could be supported and Doug Briggs replied not right now, but if we get more in local aid it would work.

Nick Davis asked about other Department Heads and if they needed additional personnel. Doug Briggs stated that the DPW was a construction company before he came and now is a maintenance company and they wouldn't need any more personnel as it works well now.

Mr. Briggs stated that if the Board supports the new officer he would make it work. Leo Janssens stated that he does support this as long as there are no cuts to other departments and Mr. Briggs responded that he would never do that. All Board members stated that they would support the additional officer.

Mr. Briggs then went to the Capital Plan to review the two police vehicles that were to be replaced. He stated that the unmarked vehicle which was equipped with the police package and would be replaced by an unmarked Taurus. Chief Barrett stated that with the replacement of vehicles on a yearly schedule he has not had to spend any money for repairs at all.

There was some discussion that followed on the request by the Library to hire an additional assistant. Mr. Briggs stated that he was waiting for information from them to justify this request.

Mr. Briggs then reviewed with the Board any increases in the FY15 budget. He also reviewed the other items in the Capital Plan noting that the \$100,000, plus the Chapter 90 funds, would be used to pave Hastings Road, overlay Cushing Street and pave Pleasant Street.

Mr. Briggs also discussed the UTV for the Fire Department which was just added to the Capital Plan, the DPW vehicle replacements and the turn-out gear for the Fire Department.

- ADJOURNMENT

At 8:28 p. m. Duncan Phyfe motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator