

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – Feb 16, 2016

Meeting brought to order at 6:30 pm.

Members Present: Dylan, Skip, Ralph, Bill, Jeff

Members Absent: John, Mary

Others Present: Marlene Johnson, Chief Paciorek

1) The minutes from the Feb 9nd meeting were reviewed and accepted

2) The next item covered was Marlene presenting the Senior Center Expense budget:

- Marlene took the position in Nov 2015 - so this is her first time through the budget process
- Marlene thought there to be about 200 seniors consistently utilizing the Senior Center, and about 300-400 using it at least once over the course of the year. Fridays are the most popular day at the Center. Between 10 and 30 people use the Center on any given day
- Marlene would like to add hours/events if possible. She would also like to do a Health Fair at the Senior Center
- The Senior Center had previously secured a SIG Grant, which this year is being mostly used to fund a part-time Outreach Coordinator position
- Some questions were raised about the budget: why is there no longer an insurance line item for this budget, why was there such an increase in the retirement line item of this budget, how was the administrative overhead line item calculated, what is the calculation for the formula grant, and if there were savings to be found by having the town provide snow removal/landscaping
- This budget was not voted on until more answers were found on the questions above. Many of them are things Doug may be able to shed light on

3) The next item covered was the Canine Control Budget

- Chief Paciorek detailed the manner in which the Canine Control service is set up and shared among the town of Greenfield, Montague and Deerfield, and how it is an important resource for both his department and the town as a whole
- The only change to the budget was a scheduled salary increase for the canine control officer, resulting in an increase to Deerfield's assessment of \$888

A motion to recommend the Canine Control budget of \$15,398 passed unanimously

4) The next item was the Police Capital budget

- The capital request from the Police department consistent of two line items: a new cruiser, and money to replace and update all defibrillators in town – only the cruiser was listed and voted in this budget, the other item will come through separately at a later date
- The Police department has 5 marked cruisers and one unmarked car
- Of the 5 marked cars, 4 are Ford Utility vehicles and 1 is a Crown Vic. This new purchase would replace the Crown Vic
- The schedule John has set out replaces one car per year, turning over the marked fleet every five years, with a target lifespan of 10 years on the unmarked car
- The vehicle being replaced has 134k miles on it currently

- There was a discussion about car use, maintenance, repair, and disposition policy. From the committee's standpoint, the Police Department has high quality policies in place regarding their fleet

A motion to recommend the Police Capital Request budget of \$42,500 passed unanimously

5) The next item was the Police Payroll and Benefit budget

- One unresolved matter in the Payroll budget is how to handle the school resource officer. Deerfield Academy has donated \$30,000 towards the school resource officer
- Some Quinn bill discussion took place, which are additional funds paid to police officers related for attaining various levels of education. The amount of these payments has been reduced, but many officers are still grandfathered in with prior levels
- It was noted that the Police Dept doesn't have to pay taxes on gasoline
- John had been told that a 1.7% COLA has been passed by Select Board for Step 10 town employees. (Will confirm this with Doug next week)
- Part time pay comes out of a few different accounts depending on the situation that led to the part-time staffing: Training (Spec), Vacation Pay, Holiday Pay typically used

Due to the outstanding information needed by the Committee on the Resource Officer, this budget was passed over at this time. The Police Benefits budget was also passed over as the Committee would like to discuss with Doug how this fits into the larger effort to have benefits budgets for other areas, such as for the schools

6) The next item was the Police Expense budget

- This budget was fairly similar to previous year – one change was increase in new clothing allowance, which had not been done in some time
- New equipment line item reaming elevated as was last year – one reason is looking to transition to Gloc 17 firearms and add silencers to long guns. Gloc 17 is smaller caliber than currently using, which decreases impact but increases accuracy – thought being that one good shot is better than one big shot. Adding silencers to long guns allows officers to remain alert and effects during and after discharge of weapon
- Dylan noted that committee may come back to look for lower expense budget depending on how the rest of the budget comes together. Point from previous meetings made again that Committee looking to prioritize investment over expense wherever possible

This budget was passed over for time being to be handled with the other two Police budgets still to be voted on

Closing discussion about town office HVAC and how Deerfield Academy sent people over to fix it, and it was very helpful. There is often a very quantitative discussion about dollars and taxes, but there is a very important qualitative relationship that has and should be maintained between the town and the school.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday February 23 at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm