

Minutes: Selectmen's Worksession – Thursday, March 22, 2012

Present: Chairman Walter F. Alterisio, Daniel F. Devlin, Clerk and Procurement Officer and Member Kenneth J. Leva

The session was called to order at 1:00pm with all members present. The board reviewed the budget requests in preparation for next year's budget and discussed the town engineer budget and miscellaneous items which might impact that budget, including the McGovern wall project.

Budget for Health Insurance: Fincom Chairman Dana Metzler advised that Fincom is going to stay with the higher number for now because uncertain whether will be able to negotiate before FY end. Union looking at the \$173k number either that or \$176K.

Chairman Alterisio advised the board would be putting in article for Town Hall water damage approximately \$3800 to \$5000 for painting and roof repair.

Dana also asked if BOS are supporting the article for the extricator cutting tool replacement. He reported Chair of Fincom and committee are willing to try to fund something to provide some sort of coverage for Town Clerk's office when she's unavailable, to serve as Assistant Town Clerk, with thought being to find someone on staff who would be willing to get certified to backfill hours when she isn't here. He advised Fincom's willing to make funds available for coverage when she's not here but problem is how to make that happen. Board suggested that individual would just submit time for specific job function in their payroll submission, but will run by the Town Accountant to confirm.

The Board then addressed issue with replacement of Fire Chief – 1st issue is that of part-time or full-time. Chairman Alterisio provided support for full time chief – he's on side of full-time chief from performance and work done & feels it would be slap in the face to the person who's put the time in if you didn't. Selectman Leva indicated answer is whether Fincom could support full time. Dana indicated they did discuss the other night – the request for reserve fund transfer for fire wages... \$10 hour or \$10 training – appropriation has been used up. They're saying that need to figure out what call firemen get and in the next few years try to get there. Discussion continued on possibility of moving from call to full time. Issue is whether believe town is ready or should continue along with full time chief. Has seen what they've done – his mind would be to continue on with full time. Now what rate- \$53k seems a pretty good number. It was indicated that neither one of the candidates that we're looking at has that level of experience or training. Would like to look to make sure there's funding for training to shore up whichever candidate takes on position – make it official there's a training component.

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Selectman Leva indicated that there's training that has to be done anyway; Dana thinks we might be paying full time for duties other than those required by Fire Chief. Charlie has been doing things that can be done by other individuals. Might not need to go full time at this point, and look at other options for coverage – i.e. continue to pay chief to take care of fire warden type of stuff or how to handle, but he's not saying that should drive decision. Selectman Leva noted was also discussion on tiering pay – going to be some amount of management training involved – if full time if the individual is looking at health insurance. Board was basically agreeable at \$42k but need contract and make provisions for continuing education component within it.

Chairman Alterisio suggested request salary – \$53K seems to be number for qualified chief – suggested starting @42K with educational component. Selectman Devlin advised that he's looked at it – part-time or full time; Chairman Alterisio more of a challenge or more of a job to figure out how part-time or full-time would work. All thought that if either one of the current candidates took it, they're on the ball and would be willing to work with the town to move forward.

As to the candidates, Chairman Alterisio felt both qualified but was concerned with where Mr. Simmons was coming from reflecting on salary, now makes more than that projected but if not travelling, could take less – seemed uncertain whether he was ready to make the change. Little more comfort in terms of defined direction from Brian – committed and directed in what he wants to do. Chairman Alterisio indicated he's almost assured that Brian's going to get a tremendous amount of support from Chief Rich. Chairman Alterisio's druthers would be to look for a vote to appoint Brian Rich as permanent Chief for a period of one year @42K. Selectman Leva provided motion – 2nd by Selectman Devlin and voted with all in favor of that appointment.

Dana asked where the board was with funding the Administrative Assistant and the board indicated there'd been no decision of that at this time.

The board adjourned at 1:50PM after appropriate motion and vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Danice N. Palumbo,
Board Secretary