

**Minutes of the Finance & Advisory Board
Town of Georgetown
March 13, 2007**

Location – Third Floor Meeting Room – Town Hall

Members in Attendance – Reggie Tardif – Chairman, Jon Ayres- Vice Chairman, Tim Ruh - Secretary, Sandy Gerraughty, Jack L’Hommedieu, Robin O’Malley, Mark Hall, and Jim Lacey

Member Absent – Mike Sweat

Guests –Chief James Mulligan - Police Department, Don Cudmore and David Thomson – Police Department, Chief Michael Anderson – Fire Department Pete Blemker – Erie 4 GTFD, Chris Dubois, Brian Coolidge, Richard Ripley all of GTFD, Matt Vincent – Selectmen, Pam Unger – resident of Bailey Lane, Courtney N. - Reporter

Minutes taken by Tim Ruh

Meeting called to Order at 7:03 PM by Reg Tardif.

Items Discussed:

1. First part of the meeting was held to discuss the proposed FY08 Budget for the Police and Fire Departments. Questions and discussions items included:
 - A. Chief Mulligan, Lt. David Thomson, and Sgt. Don Cudmore presented the FY08 budget request for the Police Department. Overall, the dept is looking for a \$31K increase over FY07, with police salaries making up the bulk of the increase. The chief stated that we have 12 full-time officers plus him. In addition, the department has 12 reserve officers, 4 full-time civilian and 2 part-time civilian communication dispatchers. Our animal control officer is shared with Boxford, is level funded for FY08, but the Chief is looking to reorganize that department in the future. Cleaning of the Police Department is done by an outside company; building maintenance is primarily done by the officers. Current trends and threats are 1) increased residential burglaries, 2) drug dealings, 3) investigations on RT 95, DUI increases. The Chief spent time discussing the building’s needs and Jack L’Hommedieu stated the problem is with the insulation, or lack thereof, as a major issue for the roof.
 - B. At the end of the presentation, the FinCom asked the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief to discuss the request for transfer of funds to open the Bailey Lane bridge. Chief Mulligan stated that both sides of the debate have legitimate complaints and pledged to work with the citizens to mitigate traffic issues once the bridge is opened. However, both Chiefs stated that it should be opened only if it could be fixed right. Is it better to have the bridge open, “absolutely” was Chief Mulligan’s comments, but only if it is opened properly, not with metal plates. Chief Mulligan stated that his officers can get to where they need to be on foot, if needed, until the bridge is opened properly. Chief Anderson voiced his support for the opinion of Chief Mulligan.
 - C. Chief Anderson, Chris Dubois and Brian Coolidge presented the FY08 budget request for the Fire Department. On the ability to increase fees, the Chief stated that fee schedules are regulated by the State Fire Marshall. The budget does not include

funding for the “Strong Chief” model that is being proposed. The Chief discussed the major line items that differed from FY07 with the \$77K lease payment for the new fire truck (10 year lease) followed by salary/wages increasing \$7K, new doors for building at \$9K, fire inspector wage increases of \$5K, self controlled breathing apparatus at \$6K, and a new jaws unit making up the majority of the increases. The Chief stated that his department experiences a turnover rate of approximately 10 members per year. The Chief also stated that the radio coverage in town is not a major concern of the fire department and that there are only a handful of places where there are gaps in coverage, but that the handhelds can communicate with each other and the responding truck in all cases and the responding truck can communicate with the station.

2. Richard Ripley, Matt Vincent and Pete Blemker of the Fire Department Advisory Committee discussed the proposal for a “strong Chief” fire department structure. They stated that only 4% of the fire departments in MA are organized like Georgetown with a Board of Fire Engineers. The concern by Matt Vincent was that the town would vote to adopt a strong chief model but not fund the position accordingly. Jack L’Hommedieu asked if we could get the volunteers more money and get a fixed compensation structure for responders. There was no action to that request.
3. The Committee briefly discussed Bailey Lane bridge and Reg stated that we will definitely have a recommendation for the town at the town meeting.
4. Motion to adjourn was made by Tim Ruh at 10:03 PM and seconded by Mark Hall. Motion carried unanimously 8-0.