

Budget Committee Meeting
Minutes of
January 4, 2012

Members Present: Robert Balon, Robert Demers, Jay Holmes, Lisa Kardell, Bruce Lary (Chairman), John Losier, Terry Oliver, Terry Rhoderick, Steve Roy, Jeff Schall

Others Present: Robin Frost, Denise Vallee, Shawn Costine, David Graham, Don Provencher, Michael Waddell, Jeff Stewart, Steve Gauthier

Press: Gail Scott, Berlin Daily Sun

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lary at 6:30 pm

Meeting Minutes: Jay Holmes made a motion to accept December 13 & 14, 2011, as written, John Losier seconded the motion and all approved.

Police Department Budget: Chief Cyr presented his 2012 budget, with the requested 5% decrease, line for line. A salary breakdown was handed to the board. It included rank, date of hire, and rates of pay with their salary. He also explained the duties of each officer, beyond patrol duty.

Terry Rhoderick questioned training done at the overtime rate. Chief Cyr explained training is done when the least amount of officers would qualify for overtime and if they didn't train, one hour per month, they would be in violation of their own policies. Terry would also like the department receive fingerprint training, Chief will address this.

Jay Holmes requested the record of calls (i.e. traffic stops, assaults, accidents, etc) to justify the 7th officer. Chief Cyr provided a 3 year Activity Comparison Graph (2009-2011) and reviewed it with board. Terry Rhoderick asked why the town needs four cruisers and the chief having an unmarked car. Chief stated it has been this way when he came on 17 years ago.

Discussion went to Gorham requesting state assistance to pay for patrolling the state roads through town. Where Chief Cyr responded there are even less state troopers and the sheriff's department is not allowed. They are back up officers as is Berlin.

Dispatch Department: Has a proposed decrease of 8.73% for the 2012 budget. Line for line the salary of each dispatcher and other expenses was reviewed. Jeff Schall asked about expansion of the repeater tower on Pine Mt. Chief Cyr is working on it, waiting for call backs and will seek a grant from a Home Land Security.

Jay Holmes made the motion, "to recommend the selectman with the town manager and police chief to look into the feasibility, cost and all entities to enter into a dispatch contract with Berlin Police Department." The Chief explained the effects of combining the two department and what the trade off would be. A roll call vote was taken by Chairman Lary and the motion was accepted.

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Balon	Yes	Robert Demers	Yes
Jay Holmes	Yes	Lisa Kardell	Yes
Bruce Lary	No	John Losier	Yes
Terry Olive	No	Terry Rhoderick	Yes
Steve Roy	Yes	Jeff Schall	No

Old Business: Chairman Lary asked if any old business. Steve Roy asked for Building Inspection data. Robin Frost stated since the chief is unable to do this at this time she would work on getting this requested data.

Robert Demers questioned the expenses of maintaining the Cascade Fire House. Chairman Lary will have the information at the final meeting.

Public Comments: Chairman Lary asked if there where any comments from the public. Mike Waddell addressed the cruiser issue, stating in 1988 Chief Daisy had the use of a car. He also stated combining dispatch has been looked into in the past; data will be in the vault. He further stated the board should know the 10% rule before going much further. Chairman Lary will get copies of this rule for the board. Chairman Lary went on to tell the board if they have any need for more information they are to call the chairman of that committee for it, not to wait for the next meeting to do so, but make certain enough copies are made for all members.

Robert Demers asked about the phones and combining them with internet, where Denise Vallee explained all the departments have their own contracts that end at all different times. As contracts end, shopping for better rates is being done.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Demers, seconded by Terry Oliver, all approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm