

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Budget Meeting
Monday, January 19, 2004

Chairman M. DiBitetto called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Present: M. DiBitetto, D. St. Pierre, P. Rueppel, G. Longfellow, P. Fitantes, M. Ruel, A. Packard-Town Administrator. P. Loiselle, D. Belanger, M. Jolin – excused.

Police Budget: Police Chief Steve Agrafiotis presented the budget. The largest increase is the contractual line with five new employees funded for a full year.

Much discussion ensued on each line; the cost of cruiser usage; responses to calls; photocopier leases; equipment, phones, economy of scale; income from state on tickets; and, traffic issues.

S. Agrafiotis stated a full-time traffic enforcement officer is needed and questioned whether five new positions should be left in the budget or placed into a separate warrant article.

Communications Budget: S. Agrafiotis stated there are nine positions budgeted with union wage increases accounted for.

M. Ruel explained the Council's request for default budget information.

Discussion ensued regarding the Budget Committee's request for all warrant articles to be in their completed version when the budget is presented. Warrant articles should include capital purchase items and a list of suggested warrant articles. The Budget Committee presentations will begin February 5th.

G. Longfellow requested an explanation as to how warrant articles work; how are they worded; who writes them; is there a boilerplate requirement of certain information.

7:30pm P. Rueppel excused.

The Council Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Dionne
Assistant Town Administrator

Mary Ruel
Town Council Secretary