

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD & ADVISORY BUDGET
COMMITTEE BUDGET WORKSHOP**

October 5, 2017

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Board & Committee members present: Chairman LaCourse, Selectman Brown and Selectman Bugbee, ABC Chairwoman MacKinnon, Pat Barbour, Brian Burke and Thomas Murdoch

Members not present: Cord Blomquist

Others present: Town Administrator Julie Glover, Chief Tom Dronsfield, Annie Gasowski, Katrinka Pellecchia and Ruth Eifert.

1. Chairman LaCourse calls the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and turns the budget presentations over to Chairwoman MacKinnon.
2. Selectman Bugbee asks for introductions. Tom Murdoch, Pat Barbour, Alice MacKinnon, Brian Burke, Scott Bugbee, Cary Brown, John LaCourse, Julie Glover and Tom Dronsfield all introduce themselves.
3. Chief Dronsfield is first to present his budget and begins with a brief statement. His department's calls for service have continued to increase since 2014. This demand has put a strain on his officers and on the department's overtime. From 2005 to 2015 there have been 7 full-time officers which include the chief. In the FY15/16 budget there was the option to hire an eighth officer. In FY17/18 Chief Dronsfield requested a part-time 32hr per week position and filled this position, but then subsequently lost the full-time position.

To save on time processing motor vehicle stops, they have utilized grant funding to purchase "e-citation" equipment for the cruisers. This system allows officers to scan driver's license information into the computer which automatically fills in the fields in the mobile data terminal and the officers can then print the summons rather than hand write them. Reports may be written and sent to Concord if needed as well.

They have also added cruiser and body cameras in an effort to help with the officers safety and assist with investigations should the need arise.

The officers have expressed their concerns on being on duty alone and not being able to keep up with the call volume. The Chief presents several recent examples of when several officers were either alone on compromised calls or they were simply short-handed on one incident that resulted in 5 arrests. It is for these reasons that the Chief is requesting the addition of a full-time officer to the police department's FY18/19 budget.

Brian Burke asks if they get the 8th officer will there be any time when an officer will be alone on duty. Chief Dronsfield said from 3-6am will be the most likely time that that may still happen and this is the quietest time per the records. Mr. Burke asks about the turnover rate. Chief Dronsfield says that lately they have been fortunate and have been retaining people. Senior Officer Cole has been here for almost 12 years, Sergeant Laliberte has been back with Lee for 3 years and Corporal Brooks has been here a little over 3 years now. Patrolman Libby is doing an outstanding job and is coming up on a year and a half. Senior Office Millar who is looking to go to the Sheriff's Department has been here for 7 years. Chief Dronsfield states that

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now that the pay rate is up and there is training and equipment they have been able to hold on to people longer.

Selectman Brown truly believes that Lee is shorthanded in the police department today and is concerned with 3 years from now. Selectman Brown asks about a K-9 Unit. Chief Dronsfield says it is expensive and is wary about training someone only to have Dover hire them from us for more money. Rochester, Dover and Barrington have K-9's that Lee can always use. He states that is has been rare that there has not been one at our disposal. Selectman Brown is thinking about when an officer has to be on duty alone. A K-9 could be in place of an officer.

Chairman LaCourse asks about other changes that may be coming. Chief Dronsfield said he would like to have a Lieutenant.

4. Ruth Eifert thanks the Board for having her as the Library Director for the last 2 ½ years. This year is the 125th Birthday of the Lee Library and during those years there have been 13 Librarians. She is #13. The Library is asking for a \$1000 increase in the electricity line item. Ms. Eifert reviews the Anticipated Revenue with the Board. The Friends of the Lee Library money is not counted as revenue. She is looking to increase the Assistant Librarian who currently works 35 hours per week up to 40 hours per week. There are currently two mornings a week that the Library is open due to a program going on but because there is only one staff person they cannot open up to the public. They are looking to increase circulation by 5%. There is a discussion with regards to the electricity supplier and equipment inside the library. They had 23 groups last fiscal year use the library and the attendance was 198 people for those events.
5. Chairwoman MacKinnon makes **motion** to adjourn at 8:07pm. Chairman LaCourse, seconds. All in favor. Motion Carries.

Minutes transcribed by:


Denise Duval, Town Secretary

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Date

Minutes accepted by The Lee Select Board and the Advisory Budget Committee:


John LaCourse, Chairman


Alice MacKinnon, Chairwoman