

Minutes of Londonderry Budget Committe Meeting of August 29th

In attendance: Chairman Dan Lekas, Member Lisa Whittemore, Vice-Chair John Curran, Member Thomas Dalton, Member Chris Melcher and Member William Mee (Member Martin Srugis absent, resignation of prior week pending).

Present for Town Staff: Sue Hickey, Finance Director [present for duration of meeting]

One citizen (unidentified) in attendance.

Scribe for Minutes: John Curran

Agenda on line and reviewed at the meeting (nb., order of presentations reversed during meeting).

7:00 pm

Introduction/preliminary tasks

Video/taping confirmed as on line.

Chairman Dan Lekas opened the meeting.

Committee Member Lisa Whittemore led Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda referenced (reviewed by members).

Public commentary: Invited. None provided.

Meeting with Police Department

LPD Staff Present: Chief Hart, Captain Dussault, Lt. Jones.

Lt Tim Jones presented Power Point re: Budget and noted critical areas referenced in power point. See power point and reviewed headings for specific topics.

Summary of Power Point:

Chief Hart conducts staff meeting each month to discuss problem areas and where to drive the budget, going forward.

Budget Performance Weekly Review (conducted monthly, weekly and daily models)

Gist: Will be at or below the annual budget for FY 13

Long Term Needs cited: Cruiser change over [now, done via the expendable maintenance trust fund]; also, articulated the desired return of the SRO Program; and revisions to Training (including the categories). Discussion turned specifically to issue of overtime ["OT"].

Presentation re: OT costs (includes investigative, court, sick coverage, training and vacation).

FY 12 is lowest court/OT costs the LPD has ever experienced (per LPD)

Question and Answer exchange:

Question (Dalton): How many cruisers? A. Have 17 Fords and moving to 16 Explorers/SUVs.

Question (Dalton): Secondary market for cages and equipment? Yes (Capt Dussault). No detail.

An extended discussion of change over in vehicle fleet ensued.

Chief Hart discussed the 26 vehicles in fleet and the turn back of vehicles on the lease.

In the short term, looking at turning in 21-22 vehicles and reducing residual costs and loss.

This has and will continue to be line item on maintenance and is a constant at \$32K

Looking at 3 year leases (staggered in past) to keep residual value high and cost low.

Question (Whittemore): \$150K overall line item and that will be used? (2012, via maintenance trust fund)

Melcher question: Re: gas allocation – effect on gas budget (Hart answer: no real change).

Lekas Question: on overall operation cost for vehicle? (Depends on the options on the vehicle)

Curran Questions re: OT (DMV hearings, court hearings and re: redundant equip in cruisers).

Dalton Questions re: hiring of new officer. New hire on Monday (several applicants/nominees have failed to pass LPD background checks).

Dalton Question re: opportunity for PT officers? (Never entertained previously but higher liab).

Curran Question: re: building issue - (HVAC problems – regular servicing; surveillance camera in interview room has been upgraded; computers are an issue “year to year”)

Discussion by Chief Hart re: computer programs and annual expenditures/upgrades

Whittemore Question re: change title of training. Chief Hart addressed proper identification of particular line items. Vast majority of training is ammunition. LPD uses a range that has reduced costs for firearm training by tens of thousands of dollars.

Whittemore Question re: being stable as to the current weaponry (Capt Dussault discussed being in ten year cycle of Glock firearm, the life of such weapons, number in armory, weights and need to take weapon out of commission if investigation of officer shooting).

Melcher Question: re: increase on 2011 phone budget (Dussault: upgraded systems due to surplus, the reason for the spike)

Melcher Question: Appears uniformed salary over budgeted each year? (Dussault: advises not the case; four officers out injured. Once status changes, alters budget, via STD/LTD benefits).

Melcher Question: OT issues: Distinguish between categories of OT? (Dussault: provides internal handouts re: OT; can document OT since ‘92, numbers and percentages).

NB – handouts provided are appended to and made part of these minutes.

Dalton Question: re: availability of any grants. (Jones: Selective enforcement actions but no other areas being pursued at present; still pay the OT out of the budget – goes to general fund, but will be looking into radar grant, per Chief Hart’s directive).

Whittemore Question: re: funding for an additional detective. (Off Doyle begins detective Sept.).

Melcher Question: Where did funds for det. originate? (Hart: Marginal increase from officer funds and with anticipated surplus – several openings & this is internal transfer only, not addition of another officer; were general discussions about the past and current staffing numbers).

Discussion of staffing (Hart): 43 (20 billeted for airport). [94/95 cents of PD staffing dollar goes to human resource/staffing.]

Whittemore Question: re: spending (Hart: discussion of budgeting for batteries for computers; discussion of need to expend funds for such equipment if risk catastrophic loss, eg, computers or radios going down due to battery failures, due to end of life expectancies).

No further Bud Com questions; invited but no public questions proffered.

Police Department presentation adjourned and LPD staff [3] exit hearing.

Presentation of Cable Division:

Presenter for Cable: Drew Caron, Director of Cable [present during PD presentation]:

Mr. Caron did not have a power point and due to logistics, was unable to provide handouts, but did provide an oral report and fielded questions and commentary.

Two goals: Promotion of the Town of Londonderry.

Cable intends to stream all Public Access channels per PC.

Cable will work around pool of people to ease the access to programming and decrease current restrictions (created by broadband).

Cable will refit and provide own [internal] labor to upgrade camera in School Dept meeting room [fish eye lens]. Additionally, Cable will pursue more integration with the School [video]

side and will strive to have Channel 20 to avoid repetition.

Goal to upgrade the lighting in Cable (study) from incand. to fluorescent.

Mr. Caron concluded that the foregoing are trends he sees Cable going in during the coming year.

He added that Cable will also be updating its web page [with descriptions of content/look].

Whittemore question: re: format. Use of volunteers? Staffing needs? (Caron: Discussion of volunteers, construction of "green screen," lighting needs).

Whittemore question: the staffing needs for program changes (Caron: Can set up in advance).

Whittemore question: access to information during emergencies. (Caron: discussion of ease of access for emergency personnel to update data w/out going through cable staff).

Curran Question: Re: budgetary needs for increase in streaming/on demand. (No budget increase, per Mr. Caron).

Curran comment, Whittemore question & discussion (Caron): re media camp.

Melcher question: re: trainer. (Caron: position combined with interface with Comcast & back up for programming). (Discussion re: reduced staff from 3 to 2: will be more work, but Mr. Caron assured BudCom that his Dept. has and will continue to adapt to this change).

No further questions from Members. No public comments or questions.

Cable presentation concluded. Mr. Caron exits meeting.

Other Business:

Approval of minutes of 8/22/12 (reviewed and approved by unanimous vote; Ms. Whittemore abstaining).

Discussion re: resignation of Member Martin Srugis. One applicant to fill vacancy (vacancy to be considered and acted on by the Town Council).

Next meeting: Move to regular meeting of 4th Thursday of each month.

Questions to Ms. Hickey re: any charitable organization submitting materials to show finances and charitable designation (as required by TC, deadline upcoming). None have complied.

No offer of any public agency/entity to come forward for next meeting.

Discussion of possible foregoing of September and meeting again in October.

[Due to the agenda item, presentation by charities seeking funding, being mooted by TC's requirement that such agencies submit requested material in advance of Sept. Bud Com].

Discussion of charities (none have applied via submission of documentation sought by Town Council; deadline upcoming). Discussion of whether to conduct meeting and hearing presentation if no applicants (if no applications, may moot the September meeting).

Discussion of replacement of Martin Srugis (one letter of interest, to be determined by council).

If meeting in September, session will be conducted on 4th Thursday (brainstorming of plan for budget; first Sat. of November will be the day long work session).

Motion to adjourn at 8:24. So moved. All concurred. Meeting conclusion.

[n.b., DVD copy provided to Mr. Curran following adjournment. Minutes prepared 8/29; revised and edited 8/30 and forwarded to Ms. Lapietro 8/30/12]