

## Lyndeborough Budget Committee

Tuesday, January 21, 2014

### MINUTES

#### Budget Committee Meeting

In attendance: Mike Decubellis, Don Guerton, Steve Brown, Kevin Boette, Sandy Schoen, Walter Holland, Karen Grybko

Absent: Corey Cheever

Recorder: Nancy Rose

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Deware presented the Police Department Budget requesting an overall increase of 2.48%. Ongoing concerns involve recruiting, outfitting, training and keeping new officers. The town has recently experienced high staff overturn due to better opportunities in neighboring towns. Police Office Maintenance has been zero for many years and there are several overdue maintenance and cleaning issues, request is for \$500. This past year saw an emergency system server replacement that was required to meet security and privacy laws. Access to the Wilton PD prosecutor is an increase but provides overall value as it reduces the time Lyndeborough PD spends preparing for and appearing in court. The Town CIP includes the replacement of a cruiser in 2015. There was discussion about office professional development and the need for travel. Chief Deware will look at options that will ensure staff get their required non-recertification training hours in as relevant and economical means as possible. Bullet proof vests have an expiration date and are on an ongoing replacement cycle. Old vests can be kept on hand for bystanders, additional personnel, or to provide added protection to vehicles. Lyndeborough PD only has one AED device (cardiac resuscitation) to carry in patrol cars. It was agreed this was a safety issue and the committee voted 5 to 2 to add \$700 to the budget to purchase a second AED to keep in the second patrol car.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief McQuade and Deputy Chief Smith presented their budget requesting an overall increase of 4.22%. The Fire Department gets a very good deal with their dispatching contractor, especially compared to smaller services used in neighboring towns. Software Support was added as a line to this budget and pulled from the Office Supplies account for improved accountability. The Reimbursement line is increased to cover a new requirement taxing volunteer reimbursement over a certain amount. This is now seen as more of a stipend. Increase defrays cost of taxes to town fire volunteers. Equipment replacement is up to cover replacement of pagers. The Equipment Repair budget was down to zero because the Alarm contract expense was moved to the Selectman's budget. Forest Fires line is up to cover replacement and addition of helmets that are more lightweight and more effective and safer than the old helmets. There was discussion about the crack in the septic tank at the fire station which will require planning and a review of whether it's time to revisit the idea of a safety complex. New standard sized fire trucks are too large for existing garage bay. As trucks age, replacement requirements may force the issue.