

Finance Committee Meeting

September 21, 2011 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229
900 Main Street
Millis, MA 02054

In Attendance:

Chris Smith, Chairman
Craig Schultze, Vice Chairman
Jennifer Soule, Clerk
Rick Manburg
Jim Smith
Susan Vecchi
Charles Aspinwall, Town Administrator
Charles Vecchi, Board of Selectmen
Acting Police Chief Dwyer
Officer Soffayer
James McKay
Nate Maltinsky
Lisa Hardin

Chris Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Article Presentation and Review – Non-Lethal Weapons:

Acting Police Chief Dwyer:

The Police Department is requesting the purchase of:

(3) 40MM Launchers:	\$ 1,500.00
(14) Taser M26s:	\$ 8,750.00
(20) 40 MM Rounds:	\$ 500.00
(14) Blackhawk M26 Holsters:	\$ 840.00
Training/Overtime Costs:	<u>\$ 5,040.00</u>
Total:	<u>\$16,630.00</u>

Officer Soffayer:

He went through a fifty hour training course in order to become a qualified trainer in non-lethal weapons. This purchase would add to the weapons system and avoid use of a revolver.

The Tasers are conducted energy weapons: Use propelled wires to conduct energy that affects the sensory and motor functions of the central nervous system.

Taser Technology Medical Safety:

- Extensive testing has shown no effect on heart rhythms or blood pressure
- 70,000 volunteers as of January 2009
- 99% instant incapacitation in less than a second with no long term effects
- Subjects may experience minor skin irritation, temporary blisters, redness or minor bleeding if probes puncture skin.

Common Effects of the Taser:

- Subject can fall immediately to the ground
- Yell or scream
- Involuntary muscle contractions
- Subject may freeze in place with legs locked
- Subject may feel dazed for several seconds
- Temporary tingling sensation
- May not remember any pain
- May experience critical stress amnesia

Taser Weapons Will Not:

- Damage nervous tissue
- Cause serious burns
- Cause electrocution in a wet environment
- Cause death
- Electrical output is not harmful to a fetus

Volunteer Exposure:

- Instructor credibility as a leader and subject matter expert
- Officers can better understand the weapon:
 - For deployment
 - Confidence that touching an exposed subject will not cause similar shock
 - Self-defense
 - Court Expertise

Serial Data port:

- Stores data and time of each firing
- Protects officers from unfounded allegations
- Officer accountability
- Recharge batteries without removal of battery tray

Success by Influence:

- Alcohol 94%
- EDP (Emotional Disturbed Person) 93%
- Cocaine 92%
- Meth 95%
- PCP 96%
- Miscellaneous Drugs 90%

Pepper spray does not often work with suspects under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The Taser Effect (Study was conducted in Orange County, FL):

- Officer injuries are down 80%
- Suspect injuries are down 67%
- Lethal force is down 78%
- Baton strikes are down 56%
- Liability savings equal 2.5 million dollars

The 40 MM Launchers:

- Single Shot
- 40MM exact impact sponge round
- Effective 5 – 12 feet
- Designed to deliver enough energy to inflict sufficient blunt trauma causing greater physical discomfort and possible incapacitation

Specialty impact munitions are used effectively against barricaded subjects to include “suicide by cop” situations and to arrest assaultive subjects. Officers should always have a lethal cover officer as a back-up plan and the use of specialty impact munitions should never place an officer’s safety in unnecessary jeopardy.

Other Uses for the 40 MM:

- Distraction tool
- Warning device – using an impact round to break a window to gain the attention of a barricaded or endangered subject.
- Animal control
- Area denial – to deny a suspect reentry into a particular area or place

Psychological Effects:

- Anxiety – the action of pointing a firearm directly at an individual, arouses connotations and a fear of having been shot with a firearm.
- Fear – mentally the subject must cope with both physiological pain that the body feels and the perceived danger.

Physiological Effects:

- Disorient
- Incapacitate
- Pain compliance
- In most situations blunt trauma does not exceed bleeding

Deployment:

- Based on a national study the averaged deployment range is 35 – 45 feet
- Factors influencing point of aim:
 - Clothing
 - Physical stature
 - Immediate surroundings
 - Impact areas

The 40 MM is often referred to as an extended range baton.

The following are less lethal weapons used in surrounding towns:

- Medway – Bean bags
- Norfolk – 40MM
- Foxboro – 40MM and Taser
- Sherborn – Taser
- Franklin – 40MM and Taser
- Holliston – 40MM
- Milford – 40MM
- Metro SWAT – 40MM and Taser

The 40MM Launcher does not replace firearms; it is considered a “baton that can be launched”. There is very little maintenance on either non lethal weapon.

Acting Police Chief Dwyer:

These weapons could have been used in Millis twice in the last few weeks. The baton puts an officer in close proximity to the suspects exposing the officer’s firearm to the suspect. The Taser leaves room/distance between the officer and the suspect. The weapons also incapacitate a person without causing serious injury. The Police Department has received excellent feedback from towns where the weapons are already in use. The annual training is approximately 8 hours after the initial training of 4 hours. If only one of the two non lethal weapons were approved, the department would choose the Taser; it would outfit the entire department with the weapon. The launchers would be installed in each police cruiser; the necessary hardware for installation already exists in each cruiser.

Article Presentation and Review – DPW Vehicles:

Jim McKay:

The request for a 2012 Ford Transit Connect (small van) would replace Unit #52 a used police vehicle with 74,531 miles. The unit is assigned to the water and sewer division for meter reading, mark-outs and general use for all DPW staff, particularly the mechanic. The cost of the replacement is \$27,384.00 which will be paid out of the Water and Sewer Surplus account. The new vehicle would be equipped with shelving and bins to house meter equipment. The computer that reads meters will be permanently installed in the vehicle as well as mark out and leak detection equipment.

The request for a 2012 Chevy Silverado Pickup with a 9 foot plow would replace Unit #13, a used police vehicle with 113,208 miles. This unit would be assigned to the water and sewer division for mark-outs, grass cutting, water main breaks and general use for all DPW staff. The cost of the replacement is \$33,048.00 which will be paid out of the Water and Sewer Surplus account. The new pickup with plow will be a new addition to the plowing fleet and will be used mainly by the water and sewer technician during the week and be used by the weekend and night on-call person. A computer used for the Scada system will be permanently installed in this vehicle to assist the water and sewer technician in the field.

Both vehicles would be purchased under the Plymouth County bid. Improved gas mileage would be a benefiting factor. The anticipated life of each vehicle is 10 -12 years. The cruisers are not conducive to

the needs of the department. If only one vehicle could be purchased the pickup would be their choice. The trade-in value of each cruiser is approximately \$900.00 each.

The option of hiring firefighters to assist in snow removal has been discussed. The firefighters would be paid under the Personnel Plan and would save on outside contractor costs. The purchase of the new sidewalk plow will eliminate the use of one of the two contractors hired last year to plow the town's sidewalks.

Article Presentation and Review – Niagara Hall Improvements:

Nate Maltinsky:

The Historical Commissions request is for \$120,000.00 to be paid by CPC funds. The committee voted unanimously to put this article on the warrant. The balance in the CPC is approximately \$380,000.00. The committee is expecting state matching funds of \$36,000.00 in October. The 1% surcharge for the CPC adds approximately \$100,000.00 to the fund annually. This request will complete Phase I of the project, Phase II may be started in the spring. Phase II is expected to be complete by the time the new library is open. Any leftover funds after the improvements are complete would be returned to the CPC.

The improvements would include:

- New roof shingles
- New hose tower
- Side entry door with roof brackets and landing
- Remove the back stairs and install a new set inside the building
- Strip rear of building
- Remove second floor door
- Move second floor window
- Re-clapboard the rear of the building
- Paint entire building
- Add the jail cell windows on the first floor, restoring the original character.

Craig Schultze made a motion to recommend \$120,000.00 for Niagara Hall Improvements, Article #24; Susan Vecchi Seconded. Vote: 6/0, motion carries.

Article Presentation and Review – Town Clerk's Office Additional Salary:

Lisa Hardin:

The Town Clerk's office is requesting a warrant article in the amount of \$5,000 for additional staff support. At the moment, they are managing with the 10 hour per week staffing decrease instituted on July 1, leaving one full time (35 hr) position and one part-time (10 hr) position. They expect to be able to manage with this staffing level until the end of December. However, in the spring of 2012, I have to run two elections (Presidential Primary in March and Town Election in May) at the same time as the town census and dog licensing. The census and dog licensing can take longer than usual if necessary, but I am particularly concerned about the elections since they are so time-sensitive. Elections are not one-day events for this office. They require a significant amount of lead preparation time, particularly with processing the absentee ballots and early voting in the office. I would prefer not to have to close

the office to get the work done. Therefore, I am asking for \$5,000 to pay for additional staff support for the six month period of January – June 2012, to be drawn on as necessary. I will also be asking for an additional \$5,000 for the next fiscal year, FY13, to be used as needed, mainly August – December and March – May 2013 because there is a State Primary in September 2012, the Presidential Election in November 2012 and the Town Election in May 2013.

The committee felt that the town voted which resulted in a failed override. The committee would be hesitant to recommend funding for staffing. The committee suggested increasing the number of hours the office is closed to the public.

Warrant Article Review:

Charles Aspinwall:

Article #19 is a continuation of the I/I inflow sewer project. The Board of Selectmen have to vote to put this article on the warrant. The sewer surplus must be certified before a decision can be made.

Article #25: There is a deficit of approximately \$7,000.00 due to more abatements granted than reserved. The town reserves \$100,000.00 annually for abatements. There is an overlay surplus of approximately \$61,500.00; the surplus cannot be transferred from one fiscal year to the next according to the DOR.

The School Department has added a “Solar Energy” project. This project would lease space on the school’s roof for solar purposes and in turn the school would purchase energy from that company.

Old Business/New Business:

Annual Dues to the ATFC (Association of Town Finance Committees) \$173.00

Craig Schultze made a motion to allocate payment to the ATFC in the amount of \$173.00 for annual dues; Susan Vecchi seconded. Vote: 6/0, motion carries.

Recruitment is under way for a Finance Committee member, the process should be complete in November.

The School Committee has an open position; Jennifer Soule has applied. The appointment of the new member will take place Monday, September 26, 2011 at the Board of Selectmen’s meeting with the School Department in attendance.

Important Dates:

Final Recommendations: October 19, 2011

Warrant to Printer: October 24, 2011

Warrant Delivered to Residents: October 31, 2011

Pre-Town Meeting/Public Hearing: November 2, 2011

Town Meeting: November 7, 2011

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

September 28, 2011 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229

October 5, 2011 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229

October 12, 2011 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229

October 19, 2011 7:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Building, Room 229

Minutes Approval:

Susan Vecchi made a motion to accept the September 14, 2011 meeting minutes as written, Jennifer Soule seconded. Vote: 6/0 motion carries.

Adjourn:

Jennifer Soule made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM; Susan Vecchi seconded, Vote 6/0.

Respectfully submitted,
Deirdre Gilmore