

**MOULTONBOROUGH ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 16, 2012**

Present: Jean Beadle, Betsey Patten, Barbara Sheppard, Alan Ballard

Absent: Kathy Gary (by prior notice)

Guest: Chief Wetherbee

Public: Nancy Wright

Chairperson Jean Beadle called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM in the Moultonborough Town Hall meeting room.

Jean welcomed Chief Len Wetherbee and explained to him that the ABC was interested in getting an overview from him in regard to what is happening in the Police Department. Areas of interest include staffing levels, K-9 Unit, anticipated changes, and any other topics.

Len began by saying that the present staffing level calls for 12 people but that they are currently operating with 11 and assessing the need to replace the open position. This means that there are times when there is only one person on duty as opposed to the usual two. Len feels that there should be a minimum of two due to safety and coverage considerations. He said that he feels the present staffing level of is correct and would be “uncomfortable” with any increase or decrease at the present time.

The K-9 Unit was discussed and Len made it clear that he would make a balanced presentation explaining the pluses and minuses of continuing the program along with the associated costs. His analysis would be done before the 2014 Town Meeting since the retirement age for canines is seven years and Ronny was added to the Police Department in 2006.

Len’s thoughts regarding 2013 include eliminating the Prosecutor position, currently absorbed by SGT Fulton, into the overall budget. The idea of having personnel with varied specialized skills is a practice that Len feels is very important. These additional skills exist throughout police departments in the Lakes Region and are provided without charge to surrounding police departments. This practice helps retention due to the incentive to learn and develop new skills.

Among other topics discussed by Len were Dispatch, School Resource Officer, and overtime exceeding budget. He is in favor of having experienced local Dispatchers due to their knowledge of the town and their personal touch with residents. The SRO position is excellent as is the present staffing according to Len. He emphasized that in all his years of experience he had never seen such a low incidence of juvenile problems. The union contract greatly restricts the Chief’s ability to shift personnel to minimize overtime. Len reported that this situation is improving due to good cooperation from the officers.

Jean thanked Len for his informative review and asked him to contact the ABC if there are areas where he thinks the ABC could be of assistance to him and the MPD.

The minutes of the October ABC meeting were approved unanimously following a motion made by Barbara and seconded by Betsey.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the long-term status of the VNA. The ABC will initiate discussions with the VNA Board after budget season regarding composition, future direction and mission of this department in order to help promote and enable continuity of the excellent services provided by the department.

The timeline for the school and town budget meetings was reviewed. A trip to Wolfeboro to learn about the vocational education program is still on the agenda.

The next meeting should be moved to November 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 due to Election Day on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:03 PM by Alan, seconded by Betsey and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Ballard

ABC Member  
October 29, 2012

DRAFT