

New Durham Board of Selectmen / Budget Committee  
December 16, 2015  
DRAFT

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Town Hall**  
**December 16, 2015, 7:00 P.M.**

*DRAFT: These minutes are strictly a draft copy and are awaiting amendment or approval at a subsequent, duly noticed public meeting. Amendments to these minutes will be noted in the minutes of said meeting. The draft will be posted on the website as a draft copy for public informational use only.*

**Present**

Budget Committee Chairman, David Curry, Chair; Catherine Orlowicz, Ellen Phillips, David Shagoury, Anthony Bonanno, James R. Jones and David Swenson, Selectmen Representative

**Absent:**

Copple Crown Representative

**Also Present:**

Lura Meattey, Clayton Randall, Carol Allen, Dot Veisel, Gregory Anthes, Michele Kendrick, Cecile Chase, Alicia Hernandez, Mark D'Entremont, David Bickford, Theresa Jarvis, Cathy Allyn

**Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m.

**Review of Minutes:**

**Minutes of the December 9, 2015, minor edits made, Ms. Orlowicz moves to approve as amended, seconded by Mr. Shagoury. Motion passes, 6-0-1. Mr. Jones abstaining as he was absent.**

**2016 Budget Review:**

**Account #4210-Police Department** Officer in Charge, Sergeant Reginald Meattey presenting. Mr. Swenson reported that the majority of the Board of Selectmen recommended \$432,922. Mr. Curry asked the Budget Committee members as to their sentiments on the service level the BoS budget supported. Mr. Swenson reported that the budget contained a 28 hour per week chief, a 28 hour per week Administrative Assistant, 3 full time officers, and 1200 hours of part time officer coverage. Mr. Curry asked what the estimate was based on and learned from Sgt. Meattey it was as directed. Mr. Bonnano thought this was a satisfactory service level based upon his review of Strafford and Gilmanton at a ratio of 1 officer to 800 persons. Ms. Orlowicz has not heard from the public and will make her decision based on what she hears tonight. Mr. Shagoury has concerns with a part-time chief believing it won't carry the same authority as a full-time. Beyond that he is not sure if the staffing plan, relying upon a pool of part-timers, will work. Mr. Jones agrees with Mr. Shagoury as to a full time Chief and agrees with Mr.

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Bonnano we can't staff year round for peak, though he is not sure of the hiring challenges of part timers. Ms. Phillips definitely believes a full time Chief is needed. What about the Emergency Management duties being placed here? She also believes we need the pro-active functions of the Department, school opening, closing and road patrols, and not just reaction to calls. She felt there needed to be a visible police presence. She feels the budget is way too low and noted that after you took out the vehicle maintenance and computers the budget was \$407,000 or nearly 20% cut over fiscal year 2015. Mr. Swenson said he voted against the budget because he feels the chief, patrol, and Administrative Assistant are underfunded and \$17,500 of computers might have been taken from reserve funds. Mr. Curry believes the Chief is the face of the community. He wants a proactive and well served community with a smart guy in charge. We pay low and it is tough to retain officers. Truly we haven't had a full complement for a number of years. Definitely not in favor of this approach.

#### PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Anthes spoke to how he came to believe this staffing model could work and believes there have been no major problems over the past 5 months. A number of citizens spoke to their level of service expectations and support for a full time Chief. Mr. Bickford said the BoS had been charged by the Budget Committee with reducing the budget by \$100,000 so they went to work on behalf of you and said he didn't understand of the push back. Former Chief Bernier proposed 32 hours a week and if the BoS had done that he doesn't believe there would be any opposition to a part time Chief. A resident spoke that the reason that Former Chief Bernier had suggested going to 32 hours per week was to facilitate savings that would go towards an additional officer's salary.

Ms. Phillips spoke to the rationale of the former Chief in proposing to go part-time (so savings could be expended on the full time officers) and spoke to her findings from Middleton and Barnstead. Mr. Bonnano asked if Sgt. Meattley was actively looking for part-time officers and learned that no one was knocking down the door with the low pay and toxic political environment. Ms. Phillips asked why part time pay more than full time. ITA Terenzini said it was not uncommon to pay trained part timers more than rookie full timers particularly given that part time officers don't carry the costs of fringe benefits. Discussion of the air cards and how they interface with the need for phones and how this interfaces with IMC software. Discussion of how the laptops will work particularly with the purchase of the docking stations to replace the outdated work stations within the PD. Lengthy discussion of the expense and benefits of the proposal.

#### 2015 Expenditures:

There was a discussion of under-expended accounts and need for Sgt. to get his orders placed ASAP before year's end. Chairman Curry asked if moved to IMC software and more digital transmission of date might reduce need for office supplies. The Sgt. spoke to his investigation into an alternative to the Cocheco Animal Shelter and finding there wasn't a workable alternative. The Chair asked for a report on usage in the next budget review meeting.

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Discussion of life span of Tasers and other equipment and the need for continued investment. Discussion of AEDs why they are \$1300 where state bid says they are \$650. ITA Terenzini says \$1300 is for 2 or 4 times \$650 is \$2600. Discussing of the details and how the \$1 in the line (Line #146 Grant Details) allows it to stay open. Discussion of whether or not grants might be received and Sgt. Meattey advised them none had been applied for because of the turmoil in the Department. Discussion of Chief and how extra hours, court time and the like are covered. Sgt. Meattey said he also has questions as to how this can work from his experience. He also spoke to the current service levels which has, in his opinion, deteriorated. Ms. Phillips stated that Town has supported the full time Chief and four officers where the Budget Committee said to cut \$100,000 she said no because she thought it was arbitrary and it seems as though its coming on the back of the Police Department. She said they funded the Fire Department as needed and they need to provide for the public safety by funding the Police Department. Mr. Curry said he has seen a lot of numbers and wants to get together with ITA Terenzini to produce a 3<sup>rd</sup> proposal around what he thinks he heard tonight as needed level of service. Consensus was for the chair to do so. It was stated that, at the minimum, the Public Budget Hearing date needs to be set.

Letter from ITA Terenzini Re: Recreation Director. BoS says that enough money is in Personnel Administration that if there is to be a raise awarded and there was communication to the Recreation Commission.

Ms. Orlowicz moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Shagoury. Motion passes 7-0.

**Adjourned meeting at 9:31pm**

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Nadeau  
Administrative Assistant