

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

March 4, 2010

Present: Chairman Elaine Kelly
Rick Nieber
Janice Hight
Dan McInnis
Bob D'Amico
Tony Poteete

Also Present: Town Administrator John W. Coderre
Police Chief Mark Leahy
Fire Chief David Durgin

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Approval of Minutes

B. D'Amico moved approval of the February 25, 2010 minutes; R. Nieber seconded; approved unanimously.

R. Nieber moved approval of the February 27, 2010 minutes; B. D'Amico seconded; approved unanimously.

Review of Police Department Budget

Chief Leahy reviewed the departmental budget and characterized it as "Status Quo". No significant changes in staffing. All collective bargaining agreements for Sergeants, Patrol Officers and Dispatchers remain unsettled for FY11. The Quinn Bill educational incentives line item has been reduced by 50% due to the State not funding its share.

The Chief also noted a loss of approximately \$41,000 in Community Policing Grants that were cut by the State.

The Chief indicated that donations and contributions have helped to keep the DARE program and the "Officer Phil" program.

Summer youth academy and National Night Out have been eliminated due to funding.

The core police services remain solid and emergency response has not been negatively impacted.

Review of Fire Department Budget

Chief Durgin indicated that most expense lines are flat. The Fire Collective Bargaining Agreement expires in FY10. No contract has been negotiated for FY11 and the budget does not contain any increase.

The Fire Chief discussed the new Ladder Truck that was purchased with bonds and mitigation funds from the Avalon Bay/Shops 9@20 development.

The Chief noted a 10% reduction in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for Town ambulance services.

The Chief reviewed the EMS revolving account noting that 70% of the departmental overtime is funded by the EMS account.

The Chief also reviewed the Emergency Preparedness Budget. He noted the Town was able to get approximately 80% back in reimbursement for the December 2008 ice storm.

The Chief reviewed recent grant-writing activities.

The Chief indicated that the core departmental mission and services remain intact, but capital investments are being deferred due to budget constraints.

Other Business

D. McInnis requested a 5-year Personnel Summary from the School Departments. The Town Administrator indicated that this information was previously requested, and he will be following up on that request with the Superintendent.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18th for Library and DPW presentations – no meeting on March 11th for Northborough Unscheduled.

Adjournment

8:45 p.m. J. Hight moved to adjourn; D. McInnis seconded, approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. Coderre