



## APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 28, 2014

Selectmen's Meeting Room

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Present: Chairman, Elaine Kelly  
Janice Hight  
Dan McInnis  
Rick Nieber  
Tony Poteete

Absent: Bob D'Amico

Also present: Town Administrator John Coderre  
Chief Leahy, Police  
Chief Durgin, Fire

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The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes

J. Hight moved approval of the Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2013; R. Neiber seconded; motion approved unanimously.

J. Hight moved approval of the Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2013; R. Neiber seconded; motion approved unanimously.

#### Police Presentation

The Police Chief reviewed his FY15 budget requests. Salaries are up 2% per the settled contracts for union employees. Non-Union employee salaries are up 2% per the personnel by-law. The only exception is a 7.6% increase in overtime.

Expenses are up for training as the State cuts back and the Town must make up the difference. Repairs and maintenance expenses are up \$8,300 to replace four (4) of the garage doors on the building. Lastly, the increase in expenses is primarily due to the request to provide Tasers to the officers at a cost of \$36,750. The Chief indicated that the request is necessary to provide officers with a less than lethal option to subdue an assailant.

#### Fire Presentation

The Fire Chief presented his FY15 budget requests. Salary increases are not included in the FY14 or FY15 budgets. Negotiations with the Fire Union are currently ongoing. Expenses are basically flat. The Chief discussed changes to the EMS revolving fund in FY15 where more funds will be transferred in to the General Fund, instead of paying expenses directly out of the revolving fund. These changes are being made to bring the revolving fund into compliance with MGL. The changes will also serve to simplify departmental budget presentations.

The Chief indicated that a new station generator was installed last year and Engine 3 replacement was procured with delivery taken during 2013. With recent increases to the departmental capital outlay account new hose and protection gear were also purchased.

The Chief reviewed his FY15 capital requests which include \$175,000 for a new forestry truck and \$66,000 for a new command vehicle.

#### FY2015 Budget Update

The Town Administrator submitted a FY2015 Budget Update memo to the Committee and reviewed its contents. According to the budget model the key budgets will increase as follows:

- Northborough K-8 Schools increase \$833,750 or 4.09% to \$21,206,314
- General Government (Town) increases \$738,978, or 4.09% to \$18,795,791
- Assabet Valley Vocational HS Operating Assessment increases by \$181,341, or 28.03% to \$828,208 due to enrollment increases
  - The Bond Anticipation Notes (BAN) interest charges associated with the ongoing renovation project is \$11,473
- Algonquin Operating Assessment increases \$341,429, or 2% to \$9,176,544
  - The debt for ARHS decreases by \$2,527, or 0.38% to \$657,234

#### Next Meeting Date and Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee was provided with a full meeting schedule through Town Meeting. The Committee approved the schedule. The next meeting is a Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. for the K-8 Schools and ARHS budget presentations.

#### Any Other Business to come before the Committee

The Committee reviewed the annual Legislatives Priorities letter dated February 25, 2014. The Legislative Priorities letter includes the Town's position on various State mandates or regulations that we would like to see changed to provide relief to the Town. These include, but are not limited to, amendments that would save the Town money, facilitate raising additional revenues such as updated fees, or generally providing flexibility for us to manage our own affairs.

#### Adjournment

J. Hight moved to adjourn; R. Nieber seconded; motion was unanimous.

9:00 pm – adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Coderre, Town Administrator

#### Documents used during meeting:

1. February 27, 2014 Meeting Agenda
2. November 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes
3. December 10, 2013 Meeting Minutes
4. Police Department Presentation
5. Fire Department Presentations
6. Budget Update Memo
7. Next Meeting Date and Committee Meeting Schedule
8. Legislative Priorities Letter