

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, April 9, 2014
TOWN HALL CHAMBERS
6:30 p.m.**

A Town Council Meeting of the Old Orchard Beach Town Council was held on Wednesday, April 9 2014. Chair O'Neill opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

**Chair Shawn O'Neill
Vice Chair Bob Quinn
Councilor Malorie Pastor
Councilor Joseph Thornton
Councilor Michael Tousignant
Councilor Kenneth Blow
Councilor Jay Kelley
Town Manager Larry Mead
Assistant Town Manager, V. Louise Reid
Police Chief Dana Kelley
Fire Chief John Glass
Scarborough Police Chief Robbie Moulton
Scarborough Fire Chief Mike Thurlow
Finance Director Diana Asanza**

The emphasis of the Workshop this evening in on Dispatch Operations and the Police Department including their CIP budget.

First on the agenda was consideration of the budget line for the Community Watch Committee which relates directly to the Police Department and has been instrumental in promoting many of the police programs. There were no changes in that budget line (Account Number 20174-50723 – Service Agencies (now showing under Service Agencies rather than the Police budget as it has been done in the past.) In discussion of the contract for Animal Welfare, that also was considered acceptable. In discussion of the wages it was noted that full and part-time wages increased \$15,400, including step increases was a result of the union contract negotiations. Seasonal wages, including overtime, increased by \$12,000. There was an increase of \$7,500 in training and \$1,000 in travel to account for the cost of supervisory training for three supervisors as well as the cost of the police academy for one replacement new hire. Service contracts increased 4%, most of which is related to the increased contract cost for dispatch services in Sanford (\$9,500). The Council will be asked through the budget process to consider transferring dispatch services to Scarborough Communications. This would result in an initial increase in cost for FY15, but lower costs going forward. Equipment replacement is up \$22,500 to fund the replacement cost of the two ATV's used for beach and summer patrol. Electricity is up \$1,000. Phone expense is down \$5,700 a total of 42% as a result of a new phone system. Networking expense is up \$4,800 to account for the purchase of air cards to back up the mobile data terminals. Computer service is down \$4,000 because it was a one-time expense in FY14. Operating supplies and equipment is increased by \$13,500 to fund the cost of ballistic vests.

Discussions then began on a possible change in Dispatch operations from Sanford to Scarborough. Old Orchard Beach is currently in a contract with Sanford for emergency dispatch, which it signed in 2011. Prior to this agreement Old Orchard Beach had its own in-house operations dispatch service which operated out of the Police/Fire station. The contract with Sanford is up next year and the Town has been reviewing its options. A contract with Scarborough would be about \$22,000 less per year but there would be an initial cost for service. If the Town stayed with a microwave system, startup costs would be about \$60,000. If the Town decided to go with fiber-optic cable, which it was said is more reliable, faster and has more bandwidth, startup costs would be approximately \$140,000. The use of the internet in everyday life is vital particularly in an emergency situation. Both fiber optic and microwave connection are options for service. Because fiber optic cables are made of glass, fiber; optic cables are immune to most forms of interference. It is also more cost effective than microwave. Use of fiber optic is an emerging market whereas microwave has been in operation for many more years. Security issues are more prevalent with microwave than with fiber optic. The Town Manager reminded the Council that there is a close relationship between Old Orchard and Scarborough. One of the downsides of the agreement with Sanford is that when someone steps into the Police Department office lobby and picks up the phone, it gets directed to an automated attendee and not to a live person. If the Town contracts with Scarborough, calls would be directed to a person in Scarborough. Also, since Scarborough is a neighboring Town there is more familiarity with Old Orchard Beach. Prior to deciding to enter into an agreement with Sanford, Old Orchard Beach has considered entering a dispatch contract with Scarborough. It was felt that this agreement with be revenue neutral for Scarborough and not a money maker for the Town. Should the two Towns come to an agreement, Scarborough would hire three new employees to accommodate the additional volume. The two Towns share a common boundary as well as a long history of mutual aid in fire service and this seems to be a clean fit adding dispatch to that association. Any agreement for dispatch between the two Towns would have to be approved by both Town Councils and an agreement would have to be signed. It was hoped that the agreement between the two Towns could be concluded by October 1st, Scarborough's start-up date. The Town Manager of Old Orchard had suggested January 1st of next year. Both Chief John Glass and Chief Dana Kelley have indicated they support this possible move. The estimated annual cost for the three new dispatchers needed would be about \$174,000. Sanford has provided 911 services to Old Orchard since 2011 at a cost of about \$300,000 a year. From the financial perspective it appears to be prudent to consider the options both from a financial perspective as well as an operational perspective. Additional information as a result of questions by members of Council included the fact that the fiber would be owned by Maine Fiber. They would be charging the town the annual fee. In discussions about how we would fund the additional startup costs, it was noted that a few options would include looking at CIP overall and also possible RSU finance credits. It was indicated that further workshops would be needed in discussions with both Councils. One of the issues that has been addressed by residents of Old Orchard Beach is the lack of the ability to talk with a live person. This is what happens when a resident calls 934-4911 instead of 911. Seniors have concerns about calling 911 when they have issues that may not be construed as an emergency.

Annual Cost Comparison for provision of services:

FY15 Sanford Dispatch	\$327,818
Proposed Cost Scarborough Dispatch	305,977
Savings with Scarborough	\$ 21,841

The FY15 one-time expense for fiber option is:	\$162,010
Adding the yearling fiber service fee:	2,640
Less: Annual Contract Savings	(21,481)
Less: Microwave Tower Charges	(6,000)
Total FY15 Additional Cost:	\$137,160

Pay Back of initial investment is six years. After that there is an annual savings of \$27,481 (assuming equal increased costs between Sanford and Scarborough over that time period.

The Chair expressed appreciation to Chief’s Mike Thurlow and Robbie Moulton of Scarborough for attendance at the meeting.

The workshop continued on with discussion of the Police Department budget projections.

Concentration of 20131 department budget items included Account Number 50106 – this was regarding the one full time employee from the Police Department. The Chief had put this employee in his budget originally but it was removed by the Town Manager. He was asked if this would impact him. Discussion continued on the pressing needs of personnel of the Police Department. With that being said the budget remained with the removal of that one position but the request to revisit this particular subject. In discussing the need for all terrain equipment it was indicated that there is a critical need here. The subject was raised again as to setting year requirements for the purchase of cars and/or other equipment but it was also suggested that this should be staggered. The suggestion was made of the purchase at another time of equipment to keep the terrain equipment clean and the Chief indicated that he had purchased a power washer to assist with the upkeep of this equipment as they suffer greatly with rust because of the sand and weather conditions. In the discussion of Account Number 50404 – Networking – the big driver in this regard is air cards. License usage was another matter that was discussed and the need to fund additional license applications for computer use. The issue of Vehicle Repair/Tires/Oil - Account Number 50453 was discussed and when asked if the purchase of two new vehicles would reduce this line the answer was no it would not because there are other cars that are very old. Councilor Quinn asked if there could be consideration for reducing Account Number 60602 – Printing and Copying – but there was not consensus to address this. In Account Number 50504 – Youth Officer Supplies – the question was if this could be lowered but it was felt that this is a fund that is used by the School Resource Officer in his work with the school system. It hadn’t been spent before but this is a new school year.

There was an extensive discussion on the Police Reserve program and the need for this to be studied further, particularly thinking about funding these Reserves based on the upfront expenses they are saddled with including equipment, schooling, etc. Again the subject turned to whether additional personnel should be studied. It was mentioned that the winter rental is an issue in this community and takes an enormous amount of service by the police department personnel. The Council promised the Police Chief that they would work on getting additional relief in the coming months. It was mentioned again that some Councilors would like to revisit the additional personnel that was cut from the budget. The Town Manager agreed to come back to the Council with the cost of an additional officer and what that would mean to a reduction in overtime and an increase to the budget line.

In the area of the CIP, that question of vehicle rotation schedule and that fact that over the past few years this has not been followed. The Finance Committee last year did not agree with the rotation program. The goal is to replace the front line cruisers when the hit at least the 80,000

miles to avoid hefty repair costs. There were some members of Council who agreed to this going back to the rotation period. There were others that did not approve of the rotation cycle, but rather replace when needed. Council has determined that they will revisit the CIP after the Finance Committee has a chance to make their recommendations as well.

The Chair expressed appreciation to all who attended and presented their input into this budget presentation.

REVISITS:

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Dispatch Operations Move to Scarborough – Workshop requested

Account Number 20131-50106 – Possible increase in employment of an additional police officer. Budget to stay the same at this point with the deletion of that position.

Workshop in the future on Reserve Program.

CIP – To be revisited with input from the Finance Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

V. Louise Reid
Town Council Secretary

I, V. Louise Reid, Secretary to the Town Council of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, do hereby certify that the foregoing document consisting of four (4) pages is a copy of the original Minutes of the Town Council Workshop of April 9, 2014.

V. Louise Reid