

MINUTES OF
TOWN OF SEEKONK FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2018
Planning Board Meeting Room

PRESENT: Russell Horsman, Chairperson
 Anne Hartnett
 Matthew Salisbury
 Jack Horton
 Justin Sullivan

 Director of Finance: Bruce Alexander
 Fire Chief Michael Healy
 Communications Director Christopher Campbell
 Police Chief Craig Mace
 Lieutenant Matthew Jardine
 Selectperson Michelle Hines

Mr. Horsman called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of January 6, 2018

Moved approval of amended minutes of January 6, 2018 Mr. Salisbury, second Ms. Hartnett (4-0)

FY 2019 Budget – Fire Department

Chief Healy reviewed his budget request for FY 2019, beginning with salary lines. Increases were explained by Chief. Increase of department clerk from 35 hours per week to 40 hours per week. Staffing was explained, adding position of deputy chief. Portion of increase is 4 firefighters added in January 2018 would be budgeted for all of FY 2019. Mr. Horsman asked about the proposed deputy chief, Chief Healy explained span of supervision in the fire department. Only increase in expenses is for recruitment physicals, that the provider has increased the cost. Turnover was discussed, there are no projected retirements, no anticipated turnover. Fire department capital plan was explained.

FY 2019 Budget – Communications Department

Director Campbell explained the personnel costs correcting the number of dispatchers to 9, one employee is off the probationary period, all employees are now following pay steps. Questions were asked about overtime vs. comp time, it was contractual at employees' choice per contract. Mr. Campbell explained the inventory of radios, and "future proof" interoperability across the spectrum. Increase in services-phone is the result of added CCTV camera at critical points in town.

FY 2019 Budget – Police Department

Chief Mace and Lieutenant Jardine presented police department budget. Chief started with personnel, all increases are the result of wage increases reflected with the new CBA. Perspective retirements were budgeted. Number of military reservist decreased, savings in that line. Increase to 40 officers to accommodate new deployment structure. In service increases explained, 40 hours per officer mandated by state, will use SEMLEC Training center in Swansea. Canine schedule explained. Part-time officers also need 40 hours of training, training schedule explained.

The Chief continued to review expenses. Fleet inventory has necessitated use of outside vendors for repairs, technically not able to do at DPW without investment and education. Cars are assigned two officers to car, with the exception of

canine officers who take the car home. Vehicles are all serviced at manufacturers' dealership. Recruitment was discussed. Supply accounts were explained. Training program was explained and the lease program detailed.

Comments from the Committee

General discussion on the presented budgets took place, next meeting date and agenda was discussed.

Future Meetings

February 22, 2018, 6:00 PM, Town Hall Meeting Room

Moved adjournment 7:55 PM Mr. Horton, second Ms. Hartnett (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Jack R. Horton, Clerk