

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**FEBRUARY 21, 2012**  
**WORK SESSION**

Members Present: David Parker, Francis Cavaco, William Rice

Robert McLintock arrived late.

Absent: John Whelan

Town Administrator: Pamela T. Nolan

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

He advised the meeting was taped via audio and video.

No one in the audience was taping.

**Budgets – FY 2013**

**Fire Department**

Chief Alan Jack was in attendance.

The Department request for FY 2013 is \$2,079,445.

Chief Jack stated it is a level-funded budget as in the past few years with the exception of contractual wages. He has not recommended any wage increases. Overtime is consistent at \$105,000, although he did request more last year but was only given the \$105,000. He feels in the next four to six weeks he will surpass that amount. The holiday line item is consistent with the contract. The \$1,934,272.76 for payroll represents a 2.1% increase over the previous year contractually.

In view of the amount paid for overtime, Chairman Parker questioned at what point it would become cost effective to hire an additional firefighter.

Chief Jack responded that four were hired last year but only one of those is in the academy right now. It will take a minimum of 12-18 months to get these new firefighters on board.

He added that, once those firefighters are fully trained and permanent, they can operate a second emergency vehicle on a more consistent basis.

In response to the Chairman's question, Chief Jack responded that the budget would not be negatively impacted if the Banna Station opens within the year.

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Chief Jack said the increase in expenses is very minimal. He met with Mrs. Nolan and Mr. Alexander and it was decided to include an increase of \$3,000 for fuel.

There are maintenance issues with apparatus. He will need a reserve fund transfer this year.

There was a trade-in (\$10,000) of another vehicle toward the purchase of the new ambulance. The State has mandated an upgrade to the defibrillator. That was included in the price of the new ambulance. Chief Jack noted that the expense side of the budget does not allow for purchasing of these mandated pieces of equipment.

Mr. Rice asked if the Chief has been planning for five years in the future in thinking about the Banna Fire Station, possible south station, and the increase in the cost of fuel.

Chief Jack felt there is a sufficient amount of equipment if those two stations come into fruition.

Chairman Parker noted the total budget request represents an increase of 2.89%, most of which is in expense.

Chief Jack stated that he worked closely with the Finance Director and Town Administrator in preparation of this budget.

There was a brief recess. The meeting reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

### **Police Department**

Police Chief Ronald Charron and Capt. Craig Mace were in attendance.

Chairman Parker stated the Police Department budget is \$2,672,903 for payroll and \$327,187 for expenses; a 1.48% increase.

Chief Charron advised there are three parts to the budget: mandatory expenditures, basic expenditures, and discretionary expenditures. However, there are very little discretionary expenditures.

There is a reduction of \$14,000 in the wages - permanent line item as a result of two retirements.

The Chief would like have some kind of bike patrol during the summer.

In response to Chairman Parker question, Chief Charron felt that Greenbrier would have some kind of impact on the Police Department.

He noted that there are fewer details since the theatre closed.

Mr. McLintock asked about special police.

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Chief Charron said there are 18 right now; they need around 20. He goes outside the department to fill details without any additional cost for training. The Town still gets the administrative fee. He noted that some specials are getting close to retirement age. Training is 242 hours (3 nights a week from April to August). The specials are responsible for the cost.

Chairman Parker stated the expense budget is \$327,000, a 3% increase over last year.

Capt. Mace talked about areas that have to be addressed. Equipment replacement – two-way radio, radio towers, computers that are used for mobile access, an additional back-up radio and back-up battery system for the public safety building.

The most costly will probably be a maintenance agreement for equipment. They would like to work with other departments - Police, Fire, DPW, and Animal Control to get a package deal.

Chairman Parker suggested a warrant article.

Mr. Cavaco stated that he would support a warrant article but he would like to have a final figure.

Mr. Rice felt it is false economy even for one year to go to the town for extra money for a recurring maintenance problem

Chief suggested a warrant article for FY 13. And then create a line item for FY 14.

Mr. McLintock noted the reserve fund is there for an emergency.

A motion was made by Mr. Cavaco, seconded by Mr. McLintock, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To dissolve at 8:05 p.m.

The vote: Mr. Cavaco – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye; Mr. Rice – Aye; Chairman Parker – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary