

**WOLFEBORO BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
BUDGET HEARING MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 13, 2015**

**Members Present:** Chairman David Senecal, Vice-Chairman Brad Harriman, Linda Murray, Dave Bowers and Luke Freudenberg.

**Member Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Town Manager David W. Owen and Finance Director Peter Chamberlin.

Chairman David Senecal called this budget hearing meeting to order at 6:04 PM in the Public Library meeting room. The purpose of this meeting is to hear and discuss the proposed budgets of the Police and Fire Departments.

The Police Department's budget was reviewed first, with Chief Stuart Chase and Captain Dean Rondeau representing the Department. Chief Chase provided a brief overview of the Police Department's budget, saying that the hourly wages reflect the second year of a 2-year contract with the NEPBA and includes a 1% cost of living adjustment (cola) plus step increases and shift differential increases. In addition, the Police Commission has granted him and the Captain 3% cost of living increases and three additional paid holidays, for a total of six paid holidays. He stated that his budget has 22 discretionary line items, and that among them he is seeking no town funding for the canine program this year, that gasoline and oil are budgeted at 17% less than last year, and a reduction in the vehicles line item to \$28,475, reflecting acquiring three new vehicles instead of four, a change made by the Town Manager. However, he requests an additional \$4,000 for body work for cruiser No. 1 to keep it on the road and he is seeking funds for body armor for three officers. He provided a new figure of \$88,096 for the Police Overtime Salaries account and a revised figure of \$7,579 for the Outside Services-Vehicle Maintenance account. These changes result in a reduction of \$10,543 in the Police Department's proposed budget overall, and a new Police total budget amount of \$1,810,198. The Selectmen indicated that they would like to revisit the Police Department budget relative to the vehicles line item.

The Police Department's Communications (Dispatching) budget was next to be reviewed. Chief Chase informed the Selectmen that there are currently two vacancies for dispatchers, and that he needs to recruit and train two new dispatchers. Again, the full-time hourly wages are subject to the terms of the second year of the NEPBA contract, but relative to part-time wages the Police Commission has tentatively budgeted for a 3% salary adjustment for them, but they will abide by whatever wage adjustment for non-union personnel is approved by the Board of Selectmen. The Board reviewed the Communications budget line by line and made no changes to it, resulting in an approved proposed budget of \$479,741 for the Communications Department.

The Board then reviewed the Police Department's Animal Control budget and made no changes to it, resulting in an approved proposed budget of \$21,677 for the Animal Control budget.

The Fire/Rescue Department's budget was then taken up, with Chief Morrill representing the Department. Relative to supervisory salaries, with the Chief's impending retirement on November 30, 2015, the Board requested a calculation of his buyback amount for accumulated leave time. [Note: Assuming a maximum of 400 hours of accumulated leave time, the Chief's buyback amount will be \$15,720, which will be paid out of the 2015 budget and have no effect on the 2016 budget.] Also relative to the Chief's retirement, the Board approved adding the sum of \$10,000 to the Fire Department's Outside Services line item to provide for a professional recruitment and assessment center process for the selection of the next Fire Chief. No other changes were made to the Fire/Rescue Department's proposed 2016 budget, resulting in a total proposed budget of \$1,886,095.

The Emergency Management and Public Safety Building budgets were both reviewed and no changes made to them.

Relative to the Fire/Rescue Department's proposed Capital Outlay items, there was considerable discussion about the need for a new Jaws of Life to replace the old one or a supplemental Jaws of Life. Chief Morrill indicated that he would be satisfied with one or the other. Linda Murray suggested possibly using the funds in the Fire Trucks and Apparatus capital reserve fund to acquire a new Jaws of Life, as an essential piece of Fire Department apparatus. The Chief explained that the proposed replacement radio headsets are needed because the existing old radio headsets are not compatible with the new radio equipment. The proposed paving at the Fire Department's substation is a perennial request that is of lowest priority. The Board indicated that it wants to revisit all of these capital outlay items.

With nothing further to review or act upon, it was moved by Linda Murray and seconded by Brad Harriman to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Owen, Town Manager