

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2021 – 5:30 PM

Lincoln Town Hall, Lincoln, NH

(approved)

(THE RECORDING OF THIS MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON YOUTUBE)

ATTENDING: Chairman Mike Simons, Vice-Chairman Herb Gardner, Jack Daly, Cindy Lloyd, Tracey Brumlik, Susan Chenard, Jim Spanos, Paul Beaudin, Dennis Ducharme, Ray D'Amante, Selectperson Jayne Ludwig, Lutz Wallem, Al Poulin

Absent:

Audience: Town Manager Butch Burbank, Finance Officer Johnna Hart, Fire Chief Ron Beard, Selectperson Tamra Ham, Police Chief Chad Morris, Deputy Chief Burnham, Sergeant Mike Stevens, David Beaudin, Ivan Strickon, Nancy Sweeney, Carol Riley

Call to order: 5:35 pm

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: "To approve minutes from 1/19/21." Motion: Herb Second: Ray

Discussion: Susan states that on line 67 Beechwood is spelled incorrectly, on line 69 it needs to say, "...once the covenants are recorded," and on line 98 possibly is spelled incorrectly. For: 13 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 1 Motion carries with corrections
Motion passes with corrections

MOTION: "To approve minutes from 1/20/21."

Motion: Herb Second: Ray

Discussion: Ron reviewed the tape and the motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Helen Jones and the 2nd was made by Steven Towers.

For: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 2 Motion passes with corrections

BUDGETS:

LIBRARY: Carol Riley states that the building cleaning will increase to \$15,860 a year from \$4992.00, due to Covid. The Library will be cleaned by Twin Rivers 5 days a week once they open. Two of those days would be a deep clean. They only get paid to clean 2 days a week right now. Carol states they are not open to the public, but offer, curbside service Monday thru Friday, 10-8. WIFI, printing, copying and faxing are also available. They haven't been open to public since March 16, 2020. Due to Covid and she doesn't know when they will open. The Trustees decided to pay **their wages** while they were closed. Materials are quarantined for 72 hours before they are checked back in.

Jack asks for clarification on how much the library is used. Carol states that the numbers are down, but now that people are used to the on-line catalog and picking up curbside, the

numbers are increasing. Al asks for clarification on how the janitorial line is different from the cleaning line. Carol states that those are just supplies needed between the major cleanings.

Paul questions why we can't have the library open to the public. Carol states they are concerned about the staff's health. Jayne asks if the Trustees have considered just closing until things are safer. Gail Tremblay states that the Board of Trustees for the Library are Nancy Sweeney, Ivan Stickon, Daniel Black and Roz Lowen. She states that curbside is working and they aren't considering totally closing. Ron suggests working with the library to plan an opening at a reduced capacity now that a vaccination is planned at the Community Center on Thursday. Carol states a new heating/cooling system was installed to help with the air circulation. Gail states she doesn't see an opening happening before the late spring or early summer. Paul suggests making a target date to open and that less needs to be budgeted since they are not open to the public.

Paul asks for clarification on the Fiber Optic Internet. Carol states that the internet service is free through Spectrum, but it's very slow and unreliable. They need to improve the service since it's being used more for telehealth appointments with doctors, streaming services and signing up for unemployment, while curbside.

Carol states that it was recommended that she not use her personal phone for library business. A cell phone would increase the telephone line by \$504 a year. Paul suggests getting rid of the \$1200 for the land line and just having the cell phone. Carol states that the land line is used for the fax machine.

POLICE/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Chief Morris states that training costs remained the same because trainings weren't available in 2020 due to Covid. Under Contracted Services: police prosecution increased due to more cases and the time the prosecutor has to spend reviewing the body camera footage. Paul asks why the contract for last year states that the amount wouldn't change for 2 years. Chief Morris states that they had to negotiate with the new Campton Police Chief and an increase of \$2000 was agreed to. The IMC record management system and Computer Services increased also. Chief Morris states that the Watch Guard Warranty increase was due to aging equipment. Deputy Chief Burnham states that they have used the warranty a lot. Chief Morris states that we need a better video system back up so we don't lose videos needed for prosecutions.

Vehicle Fuel/Maintenance went up because they kept an older cruiser in anticipation of getting more officers. Paul asks if the number of body cameras will increase if the number of officers were to increase. Chief Morris states that he made a list of items they would

need, totaling \$10,500 for each. Radio replacements are done one at a time, at \$2800 each and patrol rifles need replacing, at a cost of \$4000.

Paul asks for clarification on the amount they are charging Woodstock for dispatch services. Butch states that they agreed on a number to start with and they will renegotiate in a couple years after they have time to evaluate how much the costs truly are.

Jayne asks if they would take in more revenue by increasing the number of officers. Chief Burnham states that more officers available to potentially write more tickets and enforce ordinances could increase revenue some, but they didn't want to increase that number since it will be mid-year, at the earliest, before any new officers would start.

Chief Morris states that the amount under wages for 3 new officers is for an entire year. Realistically, the amount would be less this year due to the time it would take to hire those officers. Chief Morris then goes over three different reports that supports the need for 17-20 full time officers and we have 10. Chief Morris states this is due to our growing population and that the risks of not adding more, far outweighs the additional expenses. He states that 6 officers and 1 dispatcher has 20 plus years experience. At present, there is not a way to guarantee that the officers stay on after training, so to reduce turnover he tries to hire certified officers and those that have ties to the community. They will recycle equipment if they can. New hires can't be used while they are at the police academy for 16 weeks and then another 12 weeks for field training.

Al suggests offering more overtime. Deputy Chief Burnham states that they use overtime if they are on an active scene or for court time. Tracey asks if it's possible to use a contract that requires them to stay 3-5 years upon being hired. Chief Morris states he doesn't think it works very well and Butch states some work and some don't. Mike states with: wages, benefits, retirement, etc. three officers would cost \$348,000 for 1 year.

Jim asks if we could just hire people to staff busy weeks or weekends. Chief Morris states that it's busy all the time. Mike states if we can't guarantee the revenue then we should cut back on the expenses. Jack suggests hiring 1 officer for the time being and using part time people to fill in the gaps. Jayne states that the BOS supports the decision to hire 3 officers. Al supports the hiring of 3 officers to provide adequate projection and coverage. Paul states that the rise in population doesn't warrant the hiring of 3 new officers, but suggests combining with Woodstock's police force as a more cost-effective answer.

Officer Stevens states that the population numbers were derived from campers, skiers, hikers, houses and hotels, not to mention the hotels and houses yet to be built. Dennis states that he agrees with the proposal. He states that in the past there was a slow season,

but not anymore. Al ask for the tax impact of hiring these officers. Butch and Chief Morris can get us those numbers. Paul proposes having our police force grow by one officer this year and one officer next year. Jim states that he agrees with Mike and Paul. Ray suggests that Chief Morris rework the budget to show 1- 2 officers with a July start date instead of 3 to save some money on the budget. Paul states that the numbers are a little higher than what you'd actually need this year since realistically they wouldn't even start before July at the earliest and ask Chief Morris if he could rework the numbers to just ask for 1 officer this year. Butch states that they compromise and rework the numbers to show 2 officers instead. Jack suggests that as the new hotels come **on board**, have them pay an impact fee that would help pay for the new officers.

MOTION: "To table the Police budget for further discussion on Thursday."

Motion: Ray Second: Al For: 11 Against: 1 Abstain: 0 Motion carries

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Chief Morris states that everything **remained the same** except for the Hazard Mitigation Plan that has to be completed this year for \$7,500, which is fully reimbursed by the state. Al asks for clarification on the training line for \$1000. Chief Morris states that is joint trainings with Woodstock Fire, Franconia Fire, Lin-Wood Ambulance to perfect responding in the notch and who would be responsible for what. Al asks for clarification on the \$1500 for supplies. Chief Beard states that it's for printed materials for joint meetings with Lincoln, Woodstock and Franconia. Butch states that they have to update the hazard mitigation plan for the levee. Paul asks for clarification on the Emergency Management line that shows first responder stipend of \$34,766. Chief Morris states that was paid out to the police for 8 weeks of hazardous duty, due to Covid and it was fully reimbursed by the state as an emergency stipend. Johnna states that the fire department received those stipends too.

Personal Administration is tabled until Thursday's meeting.

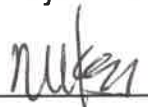
Other Business:

Mike, Jim, Jack, Cindy and Al are up for reelection and needs to declare by 5 pm on Friday, 1/29/21 if running again. Mike asks Johnna to put the spreadsheets in pdf format before she sends them out so they can be printed easier.

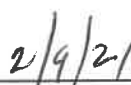
MOTION: "To adjourn the meeting."

Motion: Paul Second: Herb
The meeting adjourns at 7:45 pm

Motion carries unanimously



Chairman Mike Simons



Date: