

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**January 19, 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

**Audience:** Town Manager Butch Burbank, Finance Officer Johnna Hart, Fire Chief Ron Beard, Selectperson Tamra Ham

**Call to order: 5:34**

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION: "To Approve 1/12/21 minutes."**

Motion: Paul      Second: Herb      Motion carries unanimously

**MOTION: "To Approve 1/14/21 minutes."**

Motion: Herb      Second: Cindy      Motion carries unanimously

### **REVIEW OF BUDGETS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Ron states that there is 3.64% increase for fire fighters (on call). Last year payroll was under budget due to less people showing up per call. Training wages were carried over since no one attended the training due to Covid. Ron states that FF1 is \$850 and FF2 is around \$600 and that it comes out of the \$6000 on the training line. Hopefully trainings will be offered in June.

Al asks for clarification on the cellular phone. Ron states that it's a contract with Verizon. Johnna states that the \$1300 is the service plan for the year not for a new phone.

Jack asks for a break down on the calls the department made last year. Ron states that they average around 200 calls a year. This past year there were 31 different incidents: 3 were building fires, 25 auto accidents with injury, 19 without injury, 65 alarm activations. Mike asks if the number of alarm calls are similar to other towns. Ron states that he doesn't compare us to other towns, but our numbers stay about the same every year.

Ron states that Training and Expenses stayed flat compared to year before. Paul asks how many people will get certified this year. Ron states that it will be around 8.

Ron states that under Contracted Services the amount for Equipment Maintenance is reduced because he got a grant for new air packs, bottles and face masks for \$155,000. The \$1000 is to recertify the cascade system.

Paul asks for clarification on the Building Maintenance (bathroom upgrades). Ron states that was on last year for \$4000, but it wasn't done. Al asks if they have an extractor and if the guys clean their own gear. Ron states they do have an extractor and he puts the responsibility of cleaning gear on them. Al asks for clarification on Twin State Fire Mutual Aid. Butch states that is for membership.

Paul asks for clarification on Truck Repair (E2 corrosion repair). Ron states that the repairs are ongoing and during Covid he didn't want to have a truck gone, not knowing if/when he would get it back. Instead some of that money was used on the ladder truck repairs and they had to use some money to cover what insurance didn't on repairs to engine 2's fire.

Ron states that the electricity runs about \$200 a month because the trucks have to be plugged in at all times so that batteries are fresh and air pressure is maintained. Al asks for clarification on what Materials and Supplies are. Ron states they are like nuts, bolts, ink and paper. Butch states that Town Hall does the ordering and they split out the amounts by department.

Ron states that fuel was underspent by about \$2000, but it just depends on the number of calls they do in a year and how many trucks go out on a call.

Ron states that he is only replacing 4 portable base Motorola radios for \$4000 each, hoping that grant money will become available in the near future. Paul asks for clarification on why the Mechanical gate line isn't funded this year. Ron states that due to Covid, the gate didn't get installed last year. Big Water estimated that at \$8000. Butch will be looking into what monies are available to fund the gate this year and the DES permit process will need to be started. It's important as an alternative water source in case there is a fire in that area. Ron states the water pressure in the **Beechwood** area is not adequate. Butch states there will be 8-10 homes built in that area once the covenants are **recorded**. The homes will also have sprinklers installed.

**MOTION: from Paul "To move \$8000 from 2020 to 2021 to fund the mechanical gate."**

Second: Al    For: 10    Opposed: 1    Motion passes

Paul asks for clarification on the Misc. Safety Gear. Ron states that those are consumables that they use every year. Al questions if \$9200 is too low for the Bunker gear. Ron will recheck the cost of each.

Jim states that there should be a hiring freeze and not hire another part-time person. Al and Mike state that due to public safety, they are for the half-time person. Jayne feels the

person is needed due to the town expanding. Paul wants to discuss with Woodstock about combining our 2 departments to be more efficient and cost effective. Ron states he works well with Chief McKay and his department in Woodstock and how they run mutual aide. He states he feels we need to build up our department, moving toward more full-time people, so it's more attractive and they see the benefits and want to combine with us as equals. Al suggests forming a committee with representatives from both towns to discuss the issues around combining our two departments.

**LEGAL:** Butch states that they are anticipating a very busy legal year. General Legal is up because of pending cases. Code enforcement/violations have increased by \$10,000. Paul asks for the actual amount of money that is spent on this. Butch states that net increase in legal is \$75,000. The majority of the money is under general legal for non-insured pay outs. They wanted \$300,000 in legal, but BOS cut that to \$275,000. Paul asks how much was paid out in settlements. Butch says there were few if any settlements paid out in 2020, but Johnna will confirm that. Paul asks for clarification on the \$25,000 on the West Street line item. Butch states it's a \$167,000 suit. They have had 2 mediation settlement hearings so far. Paul ask why our legal budget is so high. Jayne states that it's due to an increase in developments. Butch states that a lot has to do with the planning/zoning ordinances, land use issues and request for information from law firms. Ray suggests **possibly** having an experienced, in-house attorney, depending on the cost/savings. Butch states that they try to cut down on costs by using the NHMA and their legal counsel through the insurance company to get advice when applicable. Ron states that they also save money by gathering discovery information in-house when they can.

**INSURANCE:** Butch states the rate is set after town meeting and is based on our claims history. The \$156,375 is a "not to exceed" number.

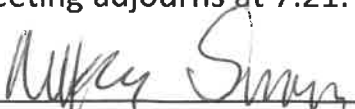
**PATRIOTIC PURPOSES:** Butch states that as of now, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is on for this year. The areas covered under this budget are: fireworks, holiday decorations, plantings/maintenance and gazebo electricity. Johnna states that Woodstock and Lincoln each pay \$5000 for the fireworks.

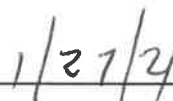
**Other Business:**

**MOTION: "To adjourn the meeting."**

Motion: Ray            Second: Jack  
The meeting adjourns at 7:21.

Motion carries unanimously

  
Chairman Mike Simons

  
Date:

