

Finance Committee Meeting Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Chairman Theresa M. Manganelli called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Members present were John F. Doherty, Marianne Gallezzo, Michele Kincaid, Robert P. Palmer, Bernard P. Nally, Jonathan R. Eaton, Leigh Martinson. Excused absence: Kevin Stokes

PRESENT IN INTEREST: Jeff Hull, Town Manager, Kendra Amaral, Assistant Town Manager

Fire Department:

Person of Interest: Richard McClellan, Chief

Chief McClellan – Provided an overview of the Fire Service. Only one fire station in town, which is at the Public Safety building shared with Police. There are nine firefighters per shift. The Town operates two ambulances. Each piece of apparatus is manned by two people, with the Shift Officer assigned to a pick-up truck. Shifts are filled to maintain nine members at all times, which is necessary to be able to run two ambulances at once. Reviewed vehicle inventory.

Mr. Doherty – Asked about the scenarios in which the Tower would be dispatched. Chief McClellan- Any house fire, fire alarm at schools, fire alarms in a structure. Sometimes it is sent for a highway accident as a means of providing protection to the firefighters working on the scene.

Mr. Doherty – Asked about the response time and the impact on the ISO rating. Chief McClellan- Response to accidents is not counted on the ISO rating. The town is at a Class 4 and close to achieving a Class 3. Increased manning and the establishment of a substation would likely get us to the Class 3. It would save residents a lot of money on insurance to go to a Class 3.

Chief McClellan- 70% of calls are medical-related. There have been 14 overdoses for this year to-date. Remax provided the Fire Department with funding, through Mary Giroux, to buy Narcan. The \$500 gift buys approximately 24 vials. Wilmington was the first Fire Department that adopted the Narcan as part of regular operation; exclusive of those under a pilot program with the state.

Ms. Manganelli – Inquired if the Police carry Narcan yet. Mr. Hull – No they do not.

Mr. Martinson - One of the advantages is to have everyone in the same station, but a substation is in the Capital Improvement Plan. Asked for clarification from the Chief. Chief McClellan - For a coordinated response it is best to come from the same location so all the support is getting there at the same time. However, generally a substation can reduce response times and make areas of town better served for emergency response services.

Mr. Hull – A challenge on the budget side is absorbing the cost of a substation. The cost is not just for the construction, but operating and manning it.

Chief McClellan- Reviewed the proposed budget. Educational incentive is increased due to the recent Collective Bargaining Agreement approved by the town. The town increased the education

payment for firefighters receiving a degree in fire sciences or other related field. Only one firefighter has a master degree at this time.

Mr. Doherty – Asked about how competitive the town's pay is. Chief McClellan – Education incentive is very low compared to neighboring communities. Ms. Amaral- Overall compensation is very competitive.

Ms. Manganelli – Asked why the education costs are separated out. Chief McClellan- Education Incentive is paid twice a year as a stipend.

Ms. Manganelli – Inquired about the status of overtime this year. Chief McClellan - Overtime is projected to go down.

Mr. Doherty – Asked if the department is on track to be at or below the Overtime budget for FY15. Chief McClellan- We are working with a few positions that were vacant or recently filled with firefighters going through Fire Academy. Expected to be within the budget.

Fire Alarm/Dispatch line item went from \$0 to \$8,500. This funding is for the Zetron system. The Zetron system gets the signal when a radio box is activated. The department needs to make sure it can be replaced or repaired if needed. It is also for the master box receiver. This is very "fire-specific" equipment. Also covers paper tapes the system needs to print its reports.

Reviewed Uniforms and Protective equipment. NFPA recommends turnout gear expire after 10 years. This line item covers replacement of the gear that is expired and ensures staff have a second set of turnout gear. Coat and pants cost approximately \$2,500 each. The department reviewed the age of all the gear and identified 20 sets needing replacement.

Mr. Doherty – Asked about other safety equipment, breathing apparatus, etc. Chief McClellan - The town purchased all new SCBA which are working great. The units are heavier but feel lighter and have longer air capacity. The staff also got all new masks that are rated up to 500 degrees.

Mr. Doherty – Asked about hazardous chemical inventory. Chief McClellan- Tier 2 reporting is done annually, due March for this year. The town has only two Tier 2 companies.

Ms. Kincaid – Asked if the town actively goes after state and federal grants. Chief McClellan - The department has sought FEMA grants, but have been told the town has too much money. Have tried for radio grants and for gear but not approved. The department gets the SAFE grant and SENIOR grant for about \$5,200. Have talked about going for others but it's a matter of allocating resources.

Reviewed capital requests. Engine 2 is a backup vehicle but is showing its age. Frame rails are an issue. Mr. Hull - To pay for the replacement of Engine 2, the town will seek borrowing.

The department received money to replace the comparators, antennae and co-axel cable of the radio system. The next step is to replace the portables. The portables are not waterproof nor not drop proof.

Replacement of A2 was deferred last year. The department runs it every day and it is becoming unreliable. While this meeting has been going on, there have been 3 ambulance runs.

Other business:

Ms. Manganello - Procedures for Finance Committee were changed this summer. For those terms that will be up, Jonathan Eaton, Leigh Martinson, Marianne Gallezzo, they need to submit to the manager in writing your interest to be reappointed by April 1st.

There being no further business, a motion was made by John Doherty, seconded by Jonathan Eaton and by the affirmative vote of all, the Finance Committee meeting was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21p.m. The next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording secretary