



Town of Wilmington

Finance Committee
121 Glen Road Wilmington, 01887

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TOWN OF WILMINGTON, MA

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Finance Committee Chairman, John F. Doherty III called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Members present were Theresa M. Manganello, Vice-Chair, Marianne Gallezzo, Secretary, Jonathan Dugas, Joseph Lavino, Scott Neville, and David Tamang. Andrew Lavine and Leigh Martinson were absent.

Also, present Jeffrey Hull, Town Manager; Susan Inman, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Human Resources; Bryan Perry, Finance Director

POLICE

PRESENT IN INTEREST: Joseph Desmond, Police Chief; Brian Pupa, Deputy Police Chief

Budget Overview Chief starts by saying he would go over some of the highlights/increases of the budget. WPD is adding one new position to patrol in July. Overtime is still an issue for us. We are down 8 positions, possibly 9. The good news is we have 9 conditional letters of employment going out this week. That means we have potential to have them in the academy in the spring, to be ready in the fall this FY. There is a brief discussion about the 4th of July and having the staff to cover the events and routine patrol with some schedule tweaking.

Contractual Services There is a sizeable increase here. Thanks to the work of Deputy Pupa, he has been working on getting us a grant from the state for cameras. It is not a guarantee, we would need to work with both unions to negotiate a deal. There is a brief discussion about the cost associated with the cameras based on if the unions can agree to the terms. There would be 51 cameras and the reoccurring cost associated with the cloud-based storage and licensing would be about \$17,000/year. There would also be a cost associated with the maintenance agreement, about \$17,000/year. Mr. Doherty asks how long are the videos stored? They are stored permanently, or according to the Secretary of State, about 5-7 years. Once an agreement is signed we should be locked into the pricing. The program lasts for 5 years and the grant is for about \$50,000. There is a discussion about the body cameras grant. Mr. Doherty asks Chief how is the space in the station. We are doing ok, maybe we could consider getting a pod or something along those lines to get a little more space. There is one other thing, the female locker room is inadequate, we have more female officers who will be joining our ranks.

Capital Outlay We are looking to replace 2 cruisers and 1 detective cruiser. With the strain on supply chains we may have a time issue with getting replacements. Mr. Doherty asks what do you do with the older cruisers? Sometimes they go to other departments in the town or can be auctioned. Ms. Gallezzo asks how many B&W's do you have currently? The WPD has 11 patrol vehicles. There is a discussion regarding using existing vehicles or getting new ones in other departments.

Chair asks if there are any more questions.

DISPATCH

PRESENT IN INTEREST: William F. Cavanaugh, Fire Chief; and Joseph Desmond, Police Chief

We didn't go up too high, the overtime has gone up a little. We have 2 open positions there and we are in the process of hiring with a couple candidates and another person going to the WFD. For the Capital we are in our

3rd year of the major project for the radio tower. With supply chain issues we were a little behind but not by much. The fiber project is done. There is a brief discussion about the security of data, redundancy and the recording systems project for dispatch.

FIRE

PRESENT IN INTEREST: William F. Cavanaugh, Fire Chief

We have pretty much kept everything the same. We are changing the PT Clerk position to a FT Clerk position. We reduced our overtime a bit. We may not use all of the overtime we budgeted for. We have several firefighters out and several firefighters in the academy. We are expecting to have 3 openings this year, and I have 2 on the intermittent list already. There is a discussion about the firefighters who are currently out and the medical retirement that is currently in the process of resolving. There have been no major increases this year in contractual services. For Medical Supplies, the cost has gone way up and we are trying to tighten up those numbers as best we can. Ms. Gallezzo says it looks like the out of town assistance has gone up. Chief responds that it has gone up. This is us going to other towns, ambulance or fire. During Covid private ems systems cut a lot of staff. Mr. Doherty asks what towns are we going to the most? Chief replies Tewksbury mostly but also North Reading and Billerica.

Chair asks if there are any further questions. Mr. Lavino asks about new line items in Personnel Services. Can you tell us about the Emergency Management Stipend, Dispatch Management and State Haz Mat Team Stipend? Mr. Hull responds that the Chief has been responsible for the oversight of these services and the stipend is to recognize the efforts he takes in these roles.

Capital Outlay The WFD is looking to replace an ambulance, work on the tower truck and a traffic light project at the station. There is a discussion regarding these projects.

Chair asks if there are any questions for Chief Cavanaugh.

Mr. Tamang asks what happens with the decommissioned ambulance? Do you get anything back? Chief responds unfortunately not much back. Usually when we are done with them they are pretty beat, sometimes we can auction them. Mr. Lavino asks when they are auctioned where does that money go? Mr. Hull replies that it goes to the capital stabilization account. Mr. Lavino asks Chief in regards to the corrosion repair to the tower truck. How long do you expect that to be out of commission? Chief says it should be about 4-6 weeks.

Chair asks if there are any questions for Chief Cavanaugh.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jeffrey Hull, Town Manager and Bryan Perry, Finance Director

Update on the Shawsheen Tech Assessment. Our enrollments have gone up significantly over the last several years. Mr. Hull spoke with Brad Jackson, the superintendent at the Tech and he has advised him that we should plan for a 20% increase this year. About \$520,000-\$530,000. The amount is based on the student count. In October 2021 the count was 311. There is a discussion about where the money would come from and the numbers of students in Wilmington vs in other towns attending the tech.

In regards to Tax Title Accounts, we have 85. 5 are 21E parcels, 3 tax deferred and 1 abandoned property.

Chair asks if there are any other questions for Mr. Hull or Mr. Perry.

Ms. Manganelli asks of Veterans Services; does Mr. Cimigalia have a town vehicle? No, he doesn't have one. There is a discussion about Mr. Cimigalia traveling in his personal vehicle vs a town vehicle for the Veterans Services department.

Ms. Gallezzo brings up the topic of the petition articles. Mr. Hull replies that one is a parcel of town owned property and the other is a Styrofoam ban.

Chair asks Mr. Hull if there is any other business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

At the conclusion of the discussion, there being no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Ms. Manganelli and seconded by Ms. Gallezzo, it was unanimously and by roll call:

VOTED: That the Finance Committee adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Swanson
Recording Secretary