

Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Chairman Theresa M. Manganelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were John F. Doherty, Marianne Gallezzo, Michele Kincaid, Robert P. Palmer, Bernard P. Nally, Jonathan R. Eaton. Excused: Kevin Stokes, Leigh Martinson

PRESENT IN INTEREST: Jeff Hull, Town Manager, Denise Casey, Assistant Town Manager

PRESENT IN INTEREST DISCUSSING POLICE BUDGET– Chief Michael Begonis, Chief of Police

Chief Begonis reviewed the budget on page 32. He stated the Town is currently in negotiations with unions, budget is not accurate because the department is down 4 officers. He stated overtime is high due to 4th of July celebration. Chief Begonis stated contractual services are status quo. He stated the Furniture & Equipment budget includes purchases of pedal bikes, and a new floor for the weight room. The Chief reviewed Capital Outlay on page 79. He stated there is a request for a new purchase of a video monitoring system outside the public safety building, to increase public and police safety around the building. He stated the High Density Evidence Storage is needed due to a State law change, requiring the Department to save files until completion of sentencing. The Chief described the request for the purchase of a storage container to be located at the Gun Range. He stated there will not be any ammunition housed in it - only basic supplies that will be needed at the Range.

There was a brief discussion on the lack of space and the need for a sally port to house cars.

There was a discussion on Taser programs. The Chief stated that Taser has tripled in price since last year. Last year appropriation was to fund Tasers for half of the force. This year appropriation will fund the rest of the force. The Chief indicated he wants to enter into the TAP Program offered by Taser International. The Committee asked for more information regarding the program. The Chief explained the Town has held off on purchase of Tasers until union negotiations are complete.

There was a discussion on the increase of mental health calls for service and the extended time it takes to handle those calls.

A member asked why the number of accidents has doubled. The Chief stated a reason is there is additional traffic in Town.

There was a discussion on 32 intersections being evaluated to find the most problematic.

The Chief stated that officer pay levels relative to other communities has changed over the years. He stated two (2) limitations are due to the civil service process and education incentive.

There was a discussion on the increase of firearms permit applications.

The Chief explained that when an applicant is denied, they take it to court and it takes at least ½ day in court for Chief and Legal Counsel.

There was a discussion on opioid addiction and the current decrease in overdoses and overdose deaths.

PRESENT IN INTEREST DISCUSSING DISPATCH BUDGET: Michael Begonis, Chief of Police

Chief Begonis reviewed the Dispatch budget on page 36. He explained that the increase in salary is due to necessary pay stipends. He reported that the equipment in Dispatch is old, and for next year is looking to purchase new equipment and redesign to replace retro fitted equipment. He explained the Furniture & Equipment budget is down due to the radio program that was purchased last year, which will not be purchased again this year. He stated the technology is migrating from analog to digital.

PRESENT IN INTEREST DISCUSSING ANIMAL CONTROL BUDGET: Michael Begonis, Chief of Police

Chief Begonis reviewed the Animal Control budget on page 37. The Chief praised Chris Sullivan for stepping up and getting information out, and doing a great job. Chief Begonis discussed the request for a new Animal Control Vehicle. He stated the one in use now is a retrofitted van that does not have a lift gate, which is necessary for removal of large animals. He stated the cages in the van are stacked and not properly secured. The Chief explained that the new vehicle is designed specifically for animal control. He stated the increase in miscellaneous supplies will be to outfit the new vehicle.

A member asked a question regarding the increase of calls for animal control. The Chief stated the previous data was low in prior years. He stated the calls for service should stay consistent over the next few years.

PRESENT IN INTEREST: Chief Rick McClellan, Chief of Fire

Chief McClellan reviewed the Fire budget on page 34. He stated the overtime budget increase is due to retirements and vacancies in 2018. He stated the Town needed to send 4 firefighters to the academy, which added 1 week, increasing the time from 9 to 10 weeks. The Chief explained the process of hiring an EMT and that they are used as a 3rd person on a piece of equipment prior to going to the academy. The Chief explained the handout regarding scheduled ambulance overtime. He reviewed the data for the incidents on each day of the week and incident time of the day from 1/1/2010 to 12/31/2016. Chief McClellan explained that double runs are happening daily. He stated after reworking the schedule, having 2 ambulances in service is working well. The Chief discussed that the equipment is up to date. He explained that EMT and incentive pay has gone up due to an increase in the incentive. The Chief stated Miscellaneous Contractual Services up due to increases in the CPR machine (Lucas) (\$1,700), dispatching multiply alarm fire (\$500), defibrillator testing, medical control, striker battery replacement (\$2,000), and small tool/engine repair (\$3,000) to purchase more tools to conduct on site repairs on some equipment. Chief McClellan reported the Contractual Training line items has been moved to training and conference. He reported the equipment in Dispatch needs to be updated. The Chief explained the uniform and protective equipment increase is due to new firefighters needing equipment. He stated Emergency & Medical Supplies have increased due to the increase in runs. The Chief stated that for the purchase of Epi-Pens the Department is looking into the CVS generic brand.

There was a brief discussion on the 10 infrared cameras that were purchased to go in masks.

The Chief stated this technology has worked out well. He also comments that the Jaws of Life tool with a battery is not much lighter, but does not require a pull start.

The Chief reviewed the Capital budget on page 79. He stated one ambulance has 105,000 miles and the other has approximately 80,000 miles. The Chief commented that due to discontinued chassis and new stretcher price, the cost has increased by \$60,000.

Other business:

Mr. Hull provided a memo from Mike Morris regarding the Middlesex retirement assessment of \$6,235,334 and saving for early payment July and December.

Mr. Hull reported that the Town will remain with Lowell Five because they matched the interest rate the Treasurer was offered by another bank.

Next meeting on Thursday, February 23rd, may be rescheduled. Beverly to make the call.

A member asked about plowing operations and if employees have mandatory time off.

Mr. Hull stated he will ask Mr. Woods. There was a discussion on driver safety.

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 21st.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording secretary