



SELECTBOARD MEETING OF November 13, 2017

Members Present: Bob Beeman, Eric Dodge, Brian Kellogg, Yvette Mason and Chris Towne

Department Heads: Dan Lindley, Town Administrator; Carol Bradley, Finance Director; Shawn Goodell, Fire Chief; Nathan Pickard, Chief of EMS; Richard Keith, Police Chief, Todd Thomas, Planning Director.

Guests: Tina Sweet, Denny Digregorio, Wayland Wells, Andrew Martin.

Bob Beeman called the Selectboard meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

I. AGENDA CHANGES OR ADDITIONS

1. Add Employment of a Public Official - possible executive session

II. BUDGET

1. Review Police Budget

The budget is primarily level funded with the exception of wages/benefits and a roof replacement. Overtime (OT) is up. We've only had full time staff since August, so there are no numbers yet based on that. Expect OT will go down, and maybe a good time to implement command structure change. Health Insurance had a 10.1% increase. Communications Replacement Equipment is to purchase a new radio annually as the oldest is 12 years old. The roof was last replaced in 1997, and we are currently experiencing some ice dams/leaks. Propose replacing with a standing seam roof (100 year). Working to get a definitive quote. Window replacement is scheduled for the current fiscal year (17-18). Sit Watch situation is getting better. Calls have changed from Chief's early days. They take much longer, more paperwork, more mediation and counseling. Mutual Aid is working well.

2. Review Fire Budget

The Fire Department call response is up to 73% at this time. Normal has been 56% in the past. The average number of calls in the past has been 150 calls. Calls for 2016 totaled 205. The calls to date for 2017 are at 200. The Chief anticipates there will be 230 calls in all for 2017. More calls and more people responding = more payroll costs.

Fire payroll will be changed from paying hourly, to a stipend to maintain volunteer employment status. All fire fighters have been apprised of this proposal. There is new line item for a part-time (PT) Administrative position to help complete the necessary paperwork that is required – more and more.

Looking into a Decontamination unit to lease. In order to reduce carcinogens on turnout gear, they should be decontaminated at least 3 times a year. Currently we wash them in a regular washer, but it doesn't take care of the carcinogens. Washing turnout gear also means that gear is out of service while drying for days. The decontamination unit can service 6 sets of gear and is complete in two (2) hours.

Increase in Trainings due to including sending two people to FDIC school. Shawn attended last year and wants to send his officers. All the courses were great, and they offer amazing leadership courses.

The Fire Station was built in 1968. It is 50 years old. The Select Board needs to come and see it first hand as to what needs to be done. Shawn and Denny have a list – but not on paper.

Proposing to replace the Rescue Truck in this budget for the voters – it's a 1999. Recently while driving, parts were literally falling off. Looking at purchasing a used one that would serve multiple purposes. That would eliminate the need for 2 trucks to roll for some calls, when one would do.

SCBA – we bought all the air packs and bottles in one grant in 2005. The NFPA determines the life cycles of air packs. We have been upgrading the bottles, but the air packs will end their life cycle all at the same time. In FY 19-20 we will need to purchase air packs to get the most out of their life cycle. They cost approximately \$6,000 each, and are compatible with the upgraded bottles we have.

The thermal imager would replace the one currently taken into burning buildings. It literally sees through the smoke and helps to identify downed victims.

3. Review Emergency Medical Services Budget

Overall, the budget is fairly level with the exception of purchasing equipment and a part-time employee pay increase. Reviewed what others are being paid in the area, and propose paying part-time AEMT's \$15.25/hr and part-time Paramedic's \$18.25/hr. Have really good people who have been with the department since 2015, and would like to get their rates up to market (currently \$13.36 and \$16.63).

The roster has 38 to 40 people. When full-time or part-time are out, day time shifts are harder to fill.

Copley Hospital is purchasing medications now which works out great, and this reduces Operating Supplies costs. Want to update the radio in A1 with a digital one. Building improvements will be to replace flooring in the training room. A-2 will be replaced by a new ambulance. The stretcher on A-2 is outdated – replacement batteries are unavailable. The stair chair on A-2 is over 10 years old. The lowest quote for the ambulance is from Braun which includes the power load system at \$216,839.00.

Wayland Wells spoke to publically support the ambulance service, as well as thank all the public (fire and police) safety services. They respond quickly, and provide great care.

With public safety costs increasing, a question was raised as to the possibility of purchasing items with other entities in the area to save money. In many ways it is difficult as each department uses different brands or sizes. For example, the Fire department uses 5" hose, while others use 4". Regionalization may work better for some departments than others.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Employment of a Public Official (possible executive session)

Motion made by Eric Dodge that we enter Executive session to discuss appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee under the provision of Title 1 section 313(3) (a) (3) of the Vermont Statutes to include Dan Lindley, Shawn Goodell, and Todd Thomas. Motion seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Eric Dodge to come out of Executive session, seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Brian Kellogg to appoint Shawn Goodell as a temporary part-time employee for the Fire Department for up to 20 hours per week at \$12.00 per hour. Seconded by Yvette Mason. Motion carried (5/0).

IV. ADJOURN

Motion made by Eric Dodge to adjourn at 8:45PM, seconded by Brian Kellogg. Motion carried. (5/0)

Respectfully submitted and filed this 14th day of November, 2017.

Carol Bradley, Scribe

Please note all minutes are in draft form and are subject to approval at the next Selectboard meeting.