

FINCOM
Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2015

Members Present: Alice, Rudy, Don, Alan, Steve, Bruce, Laura, John
Not Present: Heidi
Others: Lorraine, Tim
Location: Town Hall Meeting Room

Alice opened the meeting at 7:06 PM.

Minutes of the December 17 meeting were approved unanimously with one small change—adding Laura to those attending the meeting.

Public Commentary: None.

Initial Budget and Recap Review: The committee's questions by department follow:

Police:

1. Regarding the \$3,000 requested increase in expenses to cover outfitting a new patrol officer – since these costs were covered successfully within the existing operating budget in the past, why can't they be covered within the existing budget now?
2. Request for web-based thermostat system to replace the current controller and thermostats:
 - a. We support this request but would like to know if multiple web-based systems have been explored for price comparison? The \$4,950 price is much higher than similar systems sold for homes.
 - b. What are the anticipated cost savings from improved heating/cooling controls?
3. As a note – we are moving the recurring capital line item for cruiser replacement into the operating budget so that CPIC does not have to review this standard item every year.

Fire:

1. Regarding the request for additional funds for in-house training:
 - a. We need to better understand the requested training program, what was done in the past regarding this type of training, and what it provides for the skills of the firefighters.
 - b. Storage shed – is there no other facility in town where these props might be stored?
 - c. Since the budgeted funds for certification of officers are not being fully utilized (only 1 of 3 budgeted slots in use), can't these available funds be used for in-house training?
2. Why are only 1-2 officers participating in certification training when 3 are budgeted?

Ambulance:

1. Please be prepared to discuss the proposed path to purchase a new ambulance and potential obstacles:
 - a. The cash flow analysis does not show the ambulance department saving all of the stated profits per run (which equal approximately \$50,000 per year; additions to the reserve account show only \$30,000 per year).
 - b. The cash flow projections show only \$192K available in 2018 for a new ambulance purchase (funding for annual operating expenses cannot be used to fund an ambulance purchase). Per the original agreement with the Town, the ambulance budget is to be self-sustaining and the Town is

not prepared to provide additional funding to purchase an ambulance. We will want to discuss solutions to this disconnect.

2. What is the actual projected year the current ambulance must be replaced?
3. What is the current cost of a standard ambulance? What equipment from the current ambulance can be moved into the new ambulance?
4. What is the current value of the existing ambulance?

Town Administrator Report: Tim updated the committee on the state budget deficit and believes Charlie Baker will likely address the deficit through a combination of budget cuts and possibly tapping the rainy day fund. Tim distributed copies of answers to the committee's Selectmen budget questions.

Finance Director Report: Lorraine presented a Reserve Fund Transfer Request from the Fire Department in the amount of \$20,428.39. This money is required to cover repairs already completed on Reserve Engine 1, repairs required to make it a front line apparatus until a new pumper truck is obtained. After brief discussion, the request was approved by unanimous vote.

Liaison Reports: None.

Next Meeting: We will meet at 7PM on January 14 in the Teachers' lounge in the Bromfield School with the School Committee to review their budget request.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Seeley, Secretary