

Budget Committee
January 5th, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Chair Charles Therriault, Walter Waring, Paul Regan, Sue Sodano, and Select Board Representative Les Dion (remote).

Absent:

Vice Chair Joe Caristi and Janet Cavanagh

Others Present:

Nik Coates, Town Administrator (remote); Bob Blanchette, Finance/Human Resources Director (remote), Chief McIntire, Bristol Police Department (remote); Chief Ben LaRoche, Bristol Fire Department (remote); and Brittany Overton, Library Director (remote).

Call to Order:

Mr. Therriault called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

New Business:

#4210 – Police Department

Mr. Regan asked about line #116 Officer. Chief McIntire stated they hired a new officer but with 17 years of experience. Mr. Waring inquired on the reason for decreasing line #126 Crossing Guards. Chief McIntire stated there were originally two positions budgeted in the past but has been underspent due to only one position being filled. Mrs. Dion stated that the Select Board budgeted for the server and reduced other lines such as this. Mr. Cotes stated that the Select Board can move the numbers in a specific line. Mrs. Sodano asked what line #190 was for. Chief McIntire stated the line is for bringing in someone from an outside agency.

#4220 – Fire Department

Chief LaRoche stated no adjustments were made to the budget. Line #395 Dispatching has decreased to \$36,884, less than what was originally budgeted for. Mr. Therriault inquired on the increase of line #350. Chief LaRoche stated that full time staff must have annual physicals along with above and beyond normal testing. This is to help identify any health concerns before going out on calls. Chief LaRoche also stated last year on line #812 EMS Equipment/New Equipment as they were approved for a four-year lease on just under \$15,000. Mr. Therriault inquired on overspending on line #635 Gas/Diesel. Chief LaRoche stated prices were lower but have gone back to normal cost. Mr. Therriault asked if line #817 included the radios from CIP. Mr. LaRoche answered yes, including pagers and related equipment as calls come in from dispatch. They have not spent much this year.

#4230 – Forestry

Chief LaRoche stated this budget is level funded. A grant for \$3,000 was received for gear and equipment.

#4290 – Emergency Management

Chief LaRoche stated that they received a \$300 grant and upgraded HIP.

#4550 – Library

Mrs. Overton stated that there are very few increases. The main increase is in the wages line, along with the 23% increase in NH retirement. Mr. Therriault stated the budget was well crafted to increase digital resources such as books and magazines due to growth and demand due to COVID.

Motions

Motion to move bottom line of #4410 Police Department in the amount of \$1,153,247 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Waring. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

Motion to move bottom line of #4420 Fire Department in the amount of \$1,045,078 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mrs. Sodano. Motion to amend line #395 in the amount of \$36,884 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Ms. Dion. Motion to approve amended bottom line of #4220 in the amount of \$1,043,962. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

Motion to move bottom line of #4230 Forestry in the amount of \$3,450 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Waring. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Motion to move bottom line of #4290 Emergency Management in the amount of \$8,501 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Waring. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Motion to move bottom line of #4550 Library in the amount of \$211,097 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Waring. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Motion by approve amended minutes by Mr. Waring, seconded by Mrs. Sodano. Motion passed by roll call vote 4-0-1.

Correspondence:

None

Member Comments:

None

Select Board/Staff Comments:

None

Adjournment:

Motion by roll call vote to adjourn meeting at 7:16pm by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Regan. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 12th at 6pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Wharton