

Budget Committee
October 7, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Vice Chair Dave Carr, Charles Therriault, Tom Kaempfer, Walter Waring, and Select Board Representative Les Dion.

Absent:

Janet Cavanagh and Chair Joe Caristi

Others Present:

Police Chief Jim McIntire and Fire Chief Ben LaRoche.

Call to Order:

Vice Chair Dave Carr called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM at the Police Department.

Police Department Tour & Q&A:

Police Chief Jim McIntire took the committee on a tour of the Police Department to discuss the current challenges. He then answered questions about the daily operations of the department. Following the session, the Committee recessed to travel to the Fire Department.

Fire Department Tour and Q&A:

Fire Chief Ben LaRoche told the committee that in 1858-1859, Bristol decided to create their own Fire Department since they had their own fire truck. The historic fire truck the Department has now is 150 or 160 years old and sits in its own space near the kitchen. The space was originally used for a smartboard, but the space wasn't working so they took out the smartboard and can now fit 30 people in the space, hosting Fire 1 classes or other gatherings or meetings. The Bristol Fire Station has one kitchen, two bathrooms, a storage closet turned into an office, a student intern space and storage room, a Fire Chief office, radio communications room, and apparatus space for the two ambulances and fire trucks. There is also a rescue truck more for those who need to out of the harsh weather or to sit while being checked out. All gear is kept in the building in the apparatus space so that it can be inspected on a daily and weekly basis and to ensure all Fire Department staff has all equipment on and ready before leaving the station. They also have a boat that was purchased two years ago that is able to go on Newfound Lake or the Pemi and is more up to date. In the back of the apparatus bay is a medical supply closet and air tools such as the compression station that is open to use by the surrounding towns that do not have their own compression station or certain air tools.

When asked about the intern program, Chief LaRoche explained that the Fire Department takes in students from LRCC's Fire Science Program and NHTI's Paramedic Program. The interns sign on for two years and basically get the college degree and work experience together. They also employ graduating high school seniors taking Fire 1 in high school as per diem. The extra hands help the full time fire fighters or EMTs so that projects can get done or just the extra help at a call if certified. Typically, the station runs off a six person rotation schedule, leaving Wednesday and Saturday open to per diem

employees. Those who graduate from the fire programs are qualified to become full time employees for Bristol Fire Department or are able to get jobs with other fire departments within and outside the area.

When asked if the Fire Department was looking at a budget increase, Chief LaRoche said the answer was no except for in the area of fire equipment budget. The dispatching fees are typically \$33,000 and may go up to \$2,000-\$3,000 more, but that can be worked with without increasing the budget for dispatching. The budget for fire equipment is \$2,000 starting, but where they need to replace certain fire equipment and certain items cost \$2,000 a piece or more, the budget would need to be increased for equipment in order to replace everything as needed instead of waiting each year or so. The budget for medical supplies can hold and does not need to be increased. Engineering such as looking to revamp the fire department building and keeping up with safety codes and expanding might require a higher budget, but the Fire Department is still looking into costs of that. The Fire Department also has a new office administrator but does not need a higher budget for that either.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Carr said review and approval of the June 24, 2019, and September 9, 2019, minutes was not taken up at the meeting and will be reviewed and approved at next meeting.

Correspondence:

None.

Old Business:

None.

Member Comments:

None.

Select Board Comments:

None.

Staff Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

Mr. Waring made a motion to adjourn at 4:41pm, seconded by Mr. Carr The motion passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Wharton

