

Present: Dorianne Almann, Bruce Bellville, Michael Carrier, Morris Klein, Lewis Major, James MacDonell, and Peter Zavorotny. Selectmen's Rep Bill Nebelski sat with and did not vote as a Budget Committee member. Excused: Joe Conroy. Absent: Paul Bornkessel.

The committee met with the Selectmen with budget discussion beginning at 6:31pm.

Selectman Mike Darcy said the Fire Department (4220) would be discussed. Selectman Bernie Rideout asked the Fire Chief Jay Matuszewski if there were any increases to the salary line. Chief Matuszewski replied the answer depends on the level of services the town wants. The department currently has 12 certified medical people. Does the town want the department to respond to more medical calls to better assist rescue or for the department to "stay the course"? The police are positioned to answer calls quickly on all of Rt. 63 and the downtown area, but fire department personnel could get to other locations more quickly. There are 500-600 calls/year with rescue calls a priority.

Mr. Zavorotny asked if rescue would still be called; Chief Matuszewski said yes. Affiliation with Rescue, Inc. means the department would be covered by rescue's liability and the paperwork burden would be borne by Rescue, Inc. Chief Matuszewski said there are a dozen firemen on hand who could respond to calls and it's up to the town to decide if the Fire Department is to respond to more medical calls.

TA Jill Collins noted that the budget listed \$85,000 in one place and \$80,000 for the same account. Chief Matuszewski said the figure should be \$80,000.

Mr. Zavorotny asked about the hourly rate. Chief Matuszewski replied it's \$10-\$11/hour. Mr. Zavorotny asked about the difference between EMTs and EMRs. Chief Matuszewski explained that EMRs are one level below EMTs and as such, EMTs can do a bit more than EMRs.

Mr. Klein asked if the Fire Department has an ambulance. No, Chief Matuszewski replied; the department has one vehicle in which equipment such as the backboard, oxygen, Stokes basket, and such are kept. An "ambulance is a whole different thing," Chief Matuszewski said.

He said that part-time employees get a certain amount; these people get paid less than some other town employees who also work part-time. The Chief said that fireman are "pulled out at all hours." Mr. Bellville asked if this means those people should get paid less, given that a fireman's job is more dangerous.

TA Collins said that the average salary over the last five years for firemen was about \$55,000.

Selectman Bill Nebelski observed that last year \$79,500 was spent. Chief Matuszewski said there are two firemen who are taking EMT training in Brattleboro. The class costs \$750 each. There are several firemen who want to take training to keep their skills sharp.

Mr. Zavorotny wanted to know if Winchester pays their firemen to go on rescue calls. Chief Matuszewski replied, "If they don't pick anyone up, they don't get paid." This part of being a volunteer.

TA Collins said that EMT training is going to be held in Hinsdale. Chief Matuszewski said that the instructor must be certified. TA Collins said that the police chief is coming in and taking part in training.

Chief Matuszewski said the issue isn't only training—EMTs need 80 hours of ride time.

Selectman Darcy spoke up, saying it would be helpful to have fire and police department personnel and the Emergency Management Director meet to discuss what each department has planned and is doing in terms of training to avoid duplication of effort and needless expense.

Mr. Zavorotny asked what broke in the department that cost \$44,000 to fix.

Chief Matuszewski explained that for years the department has handled repairs itself. Now the work will have to be farmed out. Perhaps the town should think about hiring a mechanic to handle all town vehicles. Some towns even have their own inspection station, he said.

TA Collins spoke up, saying that most departments have a person on staff who changes the oil in that department's vehicles. Mr. Nebelski said this isn't the case with the police department.

TA Collins asked Chief Matuszewski what he farms out. He replied that the department does as much as they can; they've gone so far as to pull out and repair engines. Selectman Steve Dioro acknowledged that the town has had the benefit of the work done by the department on its vehicles.

Selectman Dario asked about the fluctuation in workman's compensation. TA Collins replied it is due to holiday contributions.

Mr. Zavorotny asked if the selectmen are going to look at hiring a town mechanic. Mr. Klein asked if the outside mechanic currently doing the work on the fire trucks is certified. Yes, Mr. Matuszewski replied, the mechanic is certified. He must be by law. TA Collins said that if the town is going to look at hiring a mechanic, she will run a report to determine costs for all town vehicles.

Selectman Rideout thought this is wise—"food for thought; the mechanic's \$50,000 position will be around \$80,000" with benefits. Mr. Bellville said that for verification purposes, oil changes are being done at a garage. Chief Matuszewski said the town "has a lot of lawn mowers." Lisbon, NH has a town mechanic and an inspection station as well.

Chief Matuszewski noted that the building's roof "has been patched up." The fire department's roof will eventually have to be redone; Chris Evans gave an estimate of \$35,000. An engineering study on the fire department building should be undertaken. "If we had 1950's trucks, they'd fit into the building." Current fire trucks are significantly longer. One of the fire trucks is slated to be replaced in 2020.

The selectmen voted to table the Fire Department budget until discussions on training take place between the town's various emergency personnel to ensure efforts are coordinated.

Mr. Zavorotny noted that as the Fire Department budget was tabled, the Budget Committee doesn't have to take action.

Discussion moved to the Rescue (4215.01), Building Inspector (4220), and Community Center (4589.9) budgets.

Ambulance doesn't get money from Mutual Aide.

Selectmen tentatively approved Rescue budget (\$135,558).

Mr. MacDonell made a motion to tentatively approve Rescue budget (\$135,558). He was seconded by Mr. Carrier. The motion passed.

Mr. MacDonell noted that last year the Building Inspector was out for two or three months due to health issues. Selectman Nebelski asked the hourly rate the Building Inspector is paid. "We pay him more than we pay the firemen." Mr. Zavorotny said "it's been averaging \$27,000." The requested budget 2017-2017 is \$41,610, the same as this year's budget. Mr. MacDonell said that the "average has really been \$38,000 or so."

Selectman Darcy asked the amount of Dues and Subscriptions. TA Collins replied it's \$544.40.

Selectmen tentatively passed a motion to increase Dues and Subscriptions to \$600.

Mr. Carrier asked if Supplies (\$652) was up to due to book purchases. Selectman Darcy replied that when the Building Inspector got the books, they were under Supplies. Mr. MacDonell noted that the Building Inspector bought a printer; TA Collins said he got a special chair for his back.

Selectmen tentatively approve \$1,000 for Building Inspector Supplies. They also tentatively approved the Building Inspector budget.

Mr. Zavorotny asked if budget committee members had questions.

Hearing none, Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively approve Building Inspector budget (\$40,592). He was seconded by Mr. MacDonell and the motion passed.

Selectman voted to table Emergency Management (4290) pending a meeting with the Fire and Police departments.

Selectmen tentatively passed a motion to approve Health Officer budget (\$1,007).

Mr. MacDonell made a motion the budget committee tentatively approves Health Officer budget (\$1,007). Seconded by Ms. Carrier, the motion passed.

Selectman Darcy said the Welfare Administration budget (\$17,097) “looks like an all salary increase.” TA Collins observed that the Welfare Director is “very strict” and good at directing people to various places for resources.

Selectmen tentatively approved the Welfare Administration budget (\$17,097).

Selectmen Rideout said he’s like to “drop Welfare Direct Assistance (4442) to \$50,000 from \$60,000.”

Selectmen tentatively approved the Welfare Direct Assistance budget (\$67,097).

Mr. Zavorotny asked for budget committee action.

Mr. Carrier made a motion to tentatively approve the Welfare Direct Assistance budget (\$67,097). He was seconded by Mr. Bellville. The motion passed with Mr. Major abstaining.

Selectman Darcy said the next budget to discuss was Library (4550). Mr. Nebelski observed the budget “is down a few dollars.”

Selectmen tentatively approved the Library budget (\$46,276).

Mr. MacDonell made a motion that the budget committee tentatively approves the Library budget (\$46,276). He was seconded by Mr. Carrier. The motion passed with Mr. Major abstaining.

Selectman Darcy said the next budget to discuss was Patriotic Purposes (4583). The Selectmen tentatively approved Patriotic Purposes budget (\$1,750).

Mr. Major made a motion the budget committee tentatively approve Patriotic Purposes budget (\$1,750) He was seconded by Mr. Carrier and the motion passed.

Selectman Darcy drew attention to Community Center (4589.9) budget (\$56,410) and noted the budget is up \$300 from this year’s.

Selectmen tentatively approved the Community Center budget (\$56,410).

Mr. Carrier made a motion the budget committee tentatively approve Community Center budget (\$56,410). He was seconded by Mr. MacDonnell and the motion passed.

Selectmen tentatively approved the Conservation Committee (4611; \$500) budget without discussion.

Mr. Zavorotny asked the Budget Committee for their comments. Hearing no, Mr. Carrier made a motion to tentatively approve the Conservation Committee budget. He was seconded by Mr. Major and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectmen Darcy drew attendees’ attention to Economic Development (4651; \$1,694). He noted that auditing got removed. The selectmen tentatively approved the budget.

Mr. Zavorotny noted that “telephone expenses bounced all over the place.” TA Collins replied that should end as providers were switched.”

Mr. Major made a motion to tentatively approve the Economic Development budget. He was seconded by Mr. Carrier and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectmen Darcy began discussion on Debt Service – Principal and Interest (4711 & 4723; \$137,126) budget. Mr. Zavorotny asked if “everything is included” in the budget? TA Collins replied, “It should be.”

Selectmen tentatively approved Debt Service budget without discussion.

Mr. Zavorotny asked if Budget Committee members had questions. As there were none, Mr. Carrier made a motion to tentatively approve Debt Service – Principal and Interest (4711 & 4711; \$137,126) budget. He was seconded by Mr. Major and the motion passed unanimously.

TA Collins said Capital Outlay (\$78,738) contains currently active leases.

Selectmen tentatively approved Capital Outlay (\$78,738) budget.

As the Budget Committee had no questions, Mr. MacDonell made a motion to tentatively approve Capital Outlay budget for all leases (\$78,738). He was seconded by Mr. Carrier and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zavorotny asked about the source of money for the field at the school. Selectman Darcy replied that Worker’s Comp of about \$32,000 supplied the \$12,000 to do the fields; he reminded committee members that “any amount under \$50,000 can be green lighted.” Selectman Rideout remarked that the lowest bid to work on the field as \$50,000; “at \$12,000, we had to act.”

With budget discussions at an end for the night, Mr. Zavorotny asked Budget Committee members to remain as selectmen left the meeting.

He noted the committee had minutes 652, 653, and 654 to approve. Mr. Nebelski made a motion to approve the three sets of minutes and was seconded by Mr. MacDonell. The motion carried.

He passed out data on the schools’ 2016-17 general fund budget detail totaling \$3.8 million and reminded the committee that salaries are *not* included. Salary negotiation is on-going; however, “there are no numbers to share now.” The schools’ budget is expected to total about \$11 million. Mr. Zavorotny noted the schools have over 300 computers; they are on a five year replacement cycle. He also noted the schools have an inventory of unused desks and chairs. Ms. Almann spoke up, saying that at the school budget meeting Sean Leary volunteered to do a desk and chair check to determine their condition and if they are usable or not.

Mr. Zavorotny told the committee that Paul Bornkessel had missed four meetings in a row. He had called Mr. Bornkessel several times and left messages without any being returned. He said he regretted having to take the action of writing Mr. Bornkessel a termination letter.

Mr. Zavorotny commented that the next meeting would be December 2nd at 6:30 in the Town Hall.

The Police Department is holding an open house on Sat., Dec. 5, starting at 9am.

With no more business to discuss, Mr. Nebelski made a motion to adjourn, was seconded by Mr. Bellville and the budget committee adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorianne Almann
Secretary