



SELECT BOARD BUDGET MEETING
Town of Southwest Harbor
Town Office & Via Zoom*
5:30 p.m. ~ Tuesday, January 18, 2022

BUDGET MINUTES

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** 5:35p.m.
- 2. ROLL CALL:** Present: Chairman George Jellison, Carolyn Ball, Chad Terry, Dan Norwood, Manager Lowell, and Town Clerk Jennifer LaHaye.

A. Excused Absences Allan Willey.

3. BUDGET REVIEW:

5:30 Police/Dispatch/CIP

Expenditures

Salaries- Members discussed the previous vote last week related to fulltime employee's increase for salary. Mr. Chairman stated he would like to discuss in further at the recap at the next meeting.

Chief Hall presented the consideration of a fourth patrol office. This will reduce the amount of overtime for the other offices. It could be considered a float shift. Chief Hall believes this office could be more active in the school during the school year, and more flexibility with this position. Possibly helping with parking. Members believe this could reduce overtime by 50%.

Tasers – currently don't have up to date equipment, and the body cameras the officers are using at times won't record when supposed to. Chief Hall is purposing purchasing new Tasers and Body cams within a package Axon provides. This would allow for the offices to have up to date equipment and meet standards for felony interviewing protocol. It would be a lease agreement with Axon.

Board members discussed combining Taser and Watch Guard lines. The cost for 7 Tasers, bodycams, and extra cartridges would be \$13,358 a year. The cruiser cameras would continue to stay, until the time for a new cruiser.

Equipment- Chief Hall doesn't think it will go higher at this time.

Radio Communications

Repairs and Maintenance – requested for next year \$1,000

Electricity – request \$450 based off the previous bills. The Water District has been paying for this up until now.

6:00 Fire Dept./CIP

Expenditures:

Vehicle Maintenance, Equipment and Safety Equipment has gone up more. Chief Tom Chisholm advised that they Fire Department is running many more medical calls.

Fire Department 485:

Chief Chisholm is requesting to create a full-time EMT/Firefighter. Call volume has increase 97% since 2019. This is more taxing on the members. Chief Tom Chisholm provided information related to the need of an EMT available in the town. At times the current Ambulance Service has not been available and has difficulty at times filling shifts. The new position would be 6am-6pm Monday-Thursday. Fridays Chief Chisholm & Deputy Chief Colton Sanborn would pick up these days to provide coverage to the town. Chief Chisholm has met with Manager Lowell, Tremont's Town Manager Jesse Dunbar, and Andrew Brayley. The town of Tremont would also offset the cost for calls in Tremont. Chief Chisholm expressed there have been medical calls within the town where an ambulance was not available, and at times need to call for an out of town Ambulance Service to cover. This position would help provide support to the Ambulance Service, guarantying a Licensed EMT provider to those medical calls to serve the town.

Chairman Jellison advised that he believed that it was a bit too late to consider this budget. Mr. Norwood needed to have more time to consider this, possibly not for this year.

Vehicles.

Members discussed not budgeting for replacement of apparatus, but allocating funds for the purpose of a refurbishment. E113 requested \$0.00 next year. L112 \$ 20,000 next year, T110 \$0. Ranger \$0. E103 \$0. Mini Pumper – would be replaced with the new Brush Pumper - \$51,021.

Equipment: No changes.

Mr. Terry added that due to the savings within the Fire Budget Chief Chisholm may have enough to funds the position he is requesting. Members continued to discuss. Ms. Ball was concerned the Department needed to obtain a special license. Chief Chisholm reported the Department obtained that Fire Responders License back in 2001. Ms. Ball expressed possible challenges within sharing a service. No final decision was made.

6:30 Ambulance

Andy Kline presented for the Southwest Harbor Tremont Ambulance. The Ambulance Service is requesting \$78,000. This year they are finishing in the black. They received a PPP Loan of \$43,600. This has been forgiven as a nonprofit organization. Staffing has been a challenge at times. In 2021 they had 443 call. 291 of those calls were in Southwest Harbor. Covid continues to be challenging for the service. They are currently working on community outreach, and have approached several students currently attending an EMT Class. The Ambulance Service is willing to reimburse with an agreement they work for them. Currently they need to replace Rescue 2. They are in the process of ordering the new ambulance. It will take about a year to receive. The cost is expected to be \$250,000. They have also have applied for a grant for specialized lift equipment.

7:00 Admin. Revenues/Reserves

Revenues:

- It was noted that page 2 in Revenues Hoist Fees were listed, this would be more of a name change to Commercial Fishing Permits.
- The Lobster Truck possibly missing from the line.
- They are no longer renting the docks.
- Manger Lowell advised she would further look into this, and make the changes needed.

Reserves:

Chris' Pond Development: \$1,000. Chairman Jellison is not in favor of this. He questioned why this is still moving forward, when this is not in support of the Select Board. Ms. Ball provided specific wording of what the Town voted on last meeting. James Geary and Jane Ares Peabody were present representing the Conservation Commission. Ms. Ares Peabody advised that they have been advertising more to provide public information related to the project. Chairman Jellison advised he is still expressed concern for building a parking next to other land owners. Mr. Geary advised that the abutters have been in support, and there have been no criticism regarding the project. Maine Coast Heritage trust has raised funds. They are able to assure the easement. Mr. Terry questioned the logistics regarding the lots, and not having access to the full property. Mr. Geary advised that if it went through, the lots would be combined into one property. Mr. Geary advised the committee would have something pulled together to present to the Board in the next coming months.

It was the consensus that the \$1,000 request should not be put in the reserves. Decision was made to move request into the Boards & Committees, and bring that up to \$1,675.00

Property Revaluation- would be over three years, it has not started yet. Manager Lowell sat down with Matt to discuss this. Manager Lowell reported they looked at doing that in three segments. The purposed coast also includes digital pictures.

4. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Mr. Norwood motioned to confirm the next meeting date January 19, at 5:30 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Terry. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Terry advised he may be a bit late to the meeting, but would be attending.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Ball motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Terry. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer E. LaHaye
Town Clerk

APPROVED

George Jellison, Jr., Chair

Carolyn Ball, Vice Chair

Dan Norwood

Chad Terry

Allen Willey

