

Advisory Budget Committee
Amended and Approved Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2015

The following members were present: Laraine King, Dan Brady, Dick McDanolds, Peter Conrad, Jon Hobbs, Andrew Maffei, Howard Hatch, Dick Fabrizio and Christopher Luurtsema. Also present: Selectboard members Wayne Fortier, Tom Friel, Robert Roudebush (in at 8:35) and Lynn Wheeler; Town Manager Glenn English; Admin. Asst./Finance Officer Jo Lacaillade; Chief Byron Charles; Sgt. Wallace Trott; Lori Peterson; Darwin Clogston and Clerk Karen Hyde.

Members Excused: Barb Dutile

Chairman Luurtsema called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Peter Conrad made the motion to accept the Minutes of the 1/07/2015 Advisory Budget Committee Meeting; seconded by Jon Hobbs and all approved.

TM English stated that the Police Department budget was up 9%, which is about \$89,000. \$60,000 of the \$89,000 is to support an additional position; \$10,000 is the mandatory increase in retirement; and \$20,000 is the increase in health insurance costs. He also noted that dispatch was up significantly. Chairman Luurtsema asked TM English if the retirement and health insurance costs were included in the \$60,000 cost of the additional position and TM English stated that it was for three-quarters of the year.

Chief Charles started out by thanking everyone for their support of the Police Department. He commented that in 2010-2011, his Police Department started submitting budgets to the Board and the Town. They laid out wants and needs of the Police Department. One of those wants-and-needs was to expand in numbers, but they wanted to see how many cases would support a position. They wanted to do this, not by just hiring a patrol officer, but by promoting an officer to a full-time detective. A replacement officer and a detective would help with attrition and quality of life in some areas and improve investigations. The Police Department has worked hard with the Board on salary issues, which he thanked them for, but it is not the be-all-end-all for the officers. He stated that there is a very good Police Department right now; they have several young officers with 5 years or less on the job. Nobody has left as of last year when the last position was filled and the officers all seem to be happy. Chief Charles stated that if they stay compatible with other areas, the attrition rate will stay down. For the past three years, they had roughly 80 felony cases that have been investigated by the Police Department. When there are less officers on the street, crime goes up and some of those numbers show that. Chief Charles stated that he believed that the Police Department had brought the Advisory Budget Committee a balanced budget; they wanted to work with the Committee and the Selectboard this year in particular. The Police Department is asking to fill an eighth position, to replace an

officer to be promoted from within to a detective to handle some of the more serious cases. He stated that the Police Department investigates everything from parking tickets to homicides. The Police Department has investigated, over the last year, sexual assault cases, child abuse cases and drug cases. Chief Charles believes that this detective is going to allow one officer to handle a case instead of five different officers. These cases are very difficult. Dan Brady asked Chief Charles why the Equipment line was down. Chief Charles responded that the Police Department had received grants for new cruiser radios and multiple officers have received new hand-held radios. The Police Department is up to date on their radios. They have also upgraded other equipment over the last three years; some through grants and some through the Town. Mr. Brady also asked about the Clothing line being up and Chief Charles responded that that would be for the new officer. Mr. Brady also asked about military equipment. Chief Charles stated that the Town of Haverhill currently has 4 M-16 rifles in their arsenal. Mr. Brady also asked how many cruisers the Police Department had. Chief Charles stated that the Police Department leased two cars and one truck. The truck gets less use as the cruisers put on many miles and is usually kept for 5-6 years. Chairman Luurtsema asked Chief Charles that by promoting an officer to detective how much that would cost and Chief Charles stated that it would be no more than 2% wage adjustment. Chairman Luurtsema asked how many open cases the Police Department had so that he had some number to base goals on. Chief Charles stated that adding this new position would not be the be-all-end-all and would not solve all the problems in Haverhill. Chief Charles commented that a chief ago, the Police Department did try to promote someone to detective with seven officers on board and it did not work as the detective had to do their own caseload as well as investigations. TM English stated that there are seven (7) officers, including the Chief. The Chief is usually tied up with administrative duties. The Chief put in a ton of time at the schools on security. He also commented that the Police Department had been working with 7 officers for over ten years. Chief Charles remarked that it was in 1996 that the seventh officer had been added. Dan Brady commented that a lot of law enforcement problems have to do with low-income, absentee landlord rental property. TM English stated it was the poor housing, living conditions and the availability of inexpensive drugs. Chief Charles commented that criminals are very different now than they were. They are much smarter with cell phone and computer availability. Wayne Fortier stated that population hasn't changed much, but the dynamics of the Town has. He also commented that the current police officers are motivated and professional. He supports adding the 8th officer. Jon Hobbs asked Chief Charles if a new officer is added, would there be a significant decrease in overtime. Chief Charles could not project this at this time, but maybe next year he could. Laraine King asked what the hourly rate was for special duty. AA Lacaillade reported that she believed it to be \$60 with a minimum of two hours. She also reported that special duty was no longer in the general fund budget. It had been moved to a special revenue account. Darwin Clogston asked Chief Charles how many hours of special duty there were in 2014. Chief Charles commented

that he did not have those numbers, but did know there were fewer hours in 2014 than there were in 2013. AA Lacaillade would have those numbers for the next meeting on January 28, 2015. There was a discussion about the Special Duty Fund. Peter Conrad made a motion to approve the Police Department budget as written; seconded by Laraine King. Peter thanked Chief Charles for his enlightenment and Chief Charles thanked them again for their support. Darwin Clogston stated that 24% of the Police Department's budget went to retirement. TM English explained that there was no negotiation in retirement; retirement was mandatory and all rates set by the state. All voted in the affirmative except Dick Fabrizio and Howard Hatch, who voted in the negative. The motion passed.

TM English commented that he had some good news for the Budget Committee. He went back to North Country Council's technical advisor and ran the numbers again on paving costs on the Capital Roads Project. They found that some of the square footage numbers for paving were too high. The change was due to a difference in road widths. Most of the change is in the 2015 part of the program; he handed out the change in paper form to the Advisory Budget Committee. The Selectboard had already received the change.

Howard Hatch commented that the Highway budget had been passed. He was requesting that the Highway budget be reopened. There was new information about the truck. Chairman Luurtsema asked Howard if they were to open the entire Highway budget or just the truck. Howard commented that when he voted no on the Highway budget; there was a bond vote and if it didn't go through, there isn't enough in the Highway budget. TM English commented that RA Stuart McDanolds had received more information on the truck issues. RA McDanolds would attend the January 28, 2015 meeting. Jon Hobbs made the motion to reopen the Highway budget; seconded by Dick McDanolds and all approved. Dick Fabrizio commented that he was spending less money on fuel and wondered if the Police Department gasoline line item could be lowered. TM English explained that the Police Department couldn't get cheaper gasoline in town; they would have to travel out of town to get any kind of saving.

Ambulance – Motion to approve by Laraine King, seconded by Jon Hobbs and all approved.

Emergency Management – Dan Brady made a motion to approve; seconded by Laraine King and all approved.

Airport – Peter Conrad made a motion to approve; seconded by Dick Fabrizio and all approved.

SW Solid Waste Cleanup – TM English explained that the increase in Solid Waste Cleanup came about from discussions with the Selectboard, who wanted to have funds available for any accumulated trash problems in Town. Hazardous Waste Cleanup is a separate Warrant Article. Motion to approve by Peter Conrad, seconded by Dan Brady and all approved.

Health Officer – Chairman Luurtsema questioned the amount in the Unemployment Ins line item. AA Lacaillade stated that \$295 should have been put in a Training line item, which would

then reduce the Unemployment Ins line item to \$6. Motion to approve by Peter Conrad, seconded by Dan Brady and all approved.

Animal Control – There was discussion on the effectiveness of Animal Control. Motion to approve by Peter Conrad, seconded by Laraine King and all approved.

General Assistance – TM English stated that General Assistance was down slightly. AA Lacaillade stated that the Welfare Administrator brought \$14,200 back into the Town. Motion to approve the total General Assistance budget made by Laraine King, seconded by Dan Brady and all approved.

Patriotic Purposes – Motion to approve by Dick Fabrizio, seconded by Peter Conrad and all approved.

Culture & Heritage – Motion to approve by Dan Brady, seconded by Laraine King and all approved.

Conservation Commission – Motion to approve by Peter Conrad, seconded by Jon Hobbs and all approved.

Economic Development – Motion to approve by Dick Fabrizio, seconded by Peter Conrad and all approved.

Debt Service – Motion to approve by Peter Conrad, seconded by Dan Brady and all approved.

Reserves – TM English stated that there was nothing new here. Chairman Luurtsema asked if the \$20,000 would be used toward the new Highway truck. TM English stated that it would be added to the \$40,000 already in Reserve to make \$60,000 towards the purchase of the new truck. Motion to approve by Peter Conrad, seconded by Dick McDanolds and all approved.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 28th at 7:00 pm.

Dick McDanolds made the motion to adjourn the meeting, there was no second and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde