

Minutes of Budget Committee
Friday, January 25th, 2019 6:00 P.M.

Draft subject to review, correction and approval at the next meeting.

Committee Members Present: Doug Dutille, Howard Hatch, David, Donny, Dick

Members of the Public Present: Phil Blanchard, Ed Ballam, Mike Lavoie, Jeff Robbins, Richard Morris, Rich Clifford, Darwin Clogston

ITM Town Manager: Excused

Finance Officer/Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Collins

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order by Doug Dutille at 6:00 P.M.

North Haverhill Fire Department: Chief Blanchard explained that the Budget Committee will see that the proposed NHFD budget has a 24% increase in the amount of \$35,190. The payroll line was increased by \$13,930 due to pay increases. Training was increased from \$1,000 to \$5,000, as there are currently 17 uncertified fire fighters and Chief Blanchard would like to get as many through a class as possible. The amount of money raised in 2018 to spend on operational costs this last year was \$26,248. There are currently 17 certified fire fighters on NHFD.

Haverhill Corner Fire Department: Chief Morris explained that his proposed budget includes \$1,500 for Fire School, \$1200 for drills, \$3,000 to Haverhill Medical, 13,500 for fire-fighting, \$1,964 workman's compensation, \$5,000 for the physical plant which includes general maintenance and \$2,500 for plowing and mowing. \$4,700 has been allocated to fire equipment, \$9,000 for turnout gear, \$2,500 for supplies and \$5,200 for repairs/maintenance. Chief Morris explained that a new roof is going to be required in the next few years. \$18,683 is the amount of the truck note that will carry into the new budget that the Precinct can vote to pay down the truck loan payment. Chairman Dutille stated that the overall budget for 2019 compared to 2018 is down.

Woodsville Fire Department: Chief Robbins stated WFD did not spend all their budget last year and the 2019 proposed budget is relatively flat-lined. Robbins stated he'd like to get the truck paid down, as he would like to purchase a tower truck soon. The office and prevention line items have been combined into one.

Howard Hatch stated he'd ideally like to see one budget for three departments. Hatch went on to state that though may be difficult for Woodsville, he believes Haverhill and Haverhill Corner could mix their men and begin moving in that direction. There was discussion on creating a policy around health and fire fighters. Chief Blanchard suggested seeking the opinions of the Precincts. There was discussion about putting aside more money each year to assist in the purchase of a new truck.

Salaries: Jennifer Collins stated that ITM English wishes to bump up employees' salaries, as losing employees can be hard to overcome and there are not many road projects scheduled for this year. Collins went on to state that ITM English would like to give the Police Department and their office staff a \$1.50 per hour increase and to give everybody else an increase of \$1.00 per hour. Committee members stated it does not seem fair to give some people a larger pay increase than others. Howard Hatch went into detail that the JRM building inside and out need to be better taken care of. There was a discussion about the increase in price of health insurance and it was suggested that Town employees should either pay the increase and get a pay raise, or have the Town cover the increase and not receive a pay increase. Dick made a motion to approve a 2% pay increase for all Town employees. Howard Hatch seconded the motion. Rich Clifford stated that as a Town employee he is happy with a 2% raise for everybody. Darwin Clogston mentioned that the Airport Manager will be taking a reduced pay rate in 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Airport Commission: The Commission stated that there won't be any tax impact with their 2019 proposed budget. It's estimated that the beacon's electricity could cost \$475 per year, which would be covered by the Airport revenues. Hangars bring in most of the revenue. Last year's revenue totaled \$38,965. There was discussion about the airport house. Howard Hatch stated he will abstain from voting on the Airport Commission's budget, as he is very upset about the management of the airport.

Meeting Minutes: The Committee will review meeting minutes from the previous meetings to discuss any changes that may need to be made before approving them.

I.T.: The JRM has a newly installed internet phone system. Jim Marshall is a contracted employee. The Committee asked questions about the new sign going out front of the JRM building. Jennifer ordered the signs that Rich Clifford stated he originally wanted. Jennifer and Rich provided the Committee with some of the history behind the sign project.

Meeting Adjourn: There was a motion to adjourn at 7:34 P.M. The motion was seconded and it carried unanimously.

Meeting minutes produced by Katie J. Williams.