

April 1, 2013

Budget Work Session

Present: Members: Jack Boyer, Barbara Brown, A. J. DuBois, Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon, Rex Swain

Alternates: Liddy Adams, Ted Bent

Selectmen: Mark Lyon, Tony Bedini, Richard Carey

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Board of Finance Chairman Michael Jackson called the Budget Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m.

Pension Funds:

Craig Schoon reported the Pension Committee had met with the USB representatives regarding the Town's Pension investment guidelines. These were discussed and it was agreed to follow the recommendations as set forth.

The Board addressed the auditor's concern regarding the possibility that Fire/EMT Award Program Funds might be attached in the event the Town was sued. The trustee will be asked to provide a statement for the auditor concerning this and a legal opinion will be obtained to address the matter. It was noted these plans are separate and exempt from the Town Employee's Pension Funds, which is protected. \$500/firefighter/EMT is provided.

Budget:

The Selectmen updated the Finance Board on the work on the proposed 2013-2014 budget. Mark Lyon noted the biggest increase will be in the Public Safety area in the Fire Marshal's and Fire Company's budgets. It is anticipated the Fire Marshal's duties will be extended from 8 to 16 hours/week, which the Selectmen felt was legitimate. More than 300 inspections are required in town annually. In addition, new construction for public buildings and schools is also required. Plans must be approved for final inspections for a certificate of occupancy.

Fire Department:

Increases in the Fire Co. utilities are expected. Facility maintenance and environmental testing were increased as were vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair.

Police:

Resident Trooper Steven Sordi has recommended that Town officer Scott Flaton's excellent performance over the past five years be recognized and his salary be increased to the same level commensurate with the other police officer.

Assessor:

Currently, this position is a 4-day/week position, which will be increased to five days/week. Fewer hours will be budgeted for a clerk.

Treasurer:

Increase suggested due to more responsibility and more accounts.

Fire Department:

Increase in maintenance of building.

The Board requested representatives from the Fire Co., Fire Marshal, Highway Department, and Library, be asked to leave as trimmed down. It is not ours to overrule. They have significant portion of what money and private money. No one has questioned the value of their program. What do you do for others that provide services.

Rex: P&R: The bottom line?

Probate Court:

Based on size of the Grand List from the Regional Probate Office in Southbury. Increased shelving is required in their vault.

BAA Increase in time for their clerk due to reval year.

Police – No union. Increase in salary to make comparable salary level for both officers. Performed well. Two town police officers. To bring into line with other officer. Fully-trained – risk that he might leave for another department.

Michael Jackson suggested contract be signed to guarantee they will continue for a specific amount of time to alleviate the risk of losing them to other departments. Trooper Sordi feels Officer Flaton is a very valuable commodity to other police departments. Contract obligation suggested for at least two years. We like what you have done. We rely on our Resident Trooper. Writing a contract is tricky. . :

Adjournment: The work session was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow

Board of Finance Secretary