

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES
November 19, 2005 Budget Workshop

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Roger Hohenberger, Alan Carpenter, Galen Stearns, Margaret Crisler and Bruce Breton were present. David Sullivan, Town Administrator, Dana Call, Finance Director and several Department Heads were also in attendance. Meeting commenced at 8:45 am.

BUDGET WORKSHOP: Each department head presented a brief summary of specific larger items identified in their proposed budgets in order to highlight for the Selectmen the majority of new and/or significant items included in the overall Town budget. The Selectmen had an opportunity to ask questions regarding the specific items presented, with the intention that the items will then be considered for inclusion or exclusion from the budget when the Selectmen discuss that particular department budget. During a brief discussion of the proposed CIP plan, the Board requested that staff look into whether money set aside in funds collected from developers for fire emergency response purposes could be used to offset the 2006 bond payment for the fire engine purchase in 2005.

The Board then discussed the Information Technology budget. Consensus was to eliminate \$9,800 designated for fire department software and to have staff look into whether banking fees for web-based services could be reduced. Mr. Hohenberger motioned to remove two new computer systems from the proposed budget; Mr. Breton seconded. Passed 4-1 (Carpenter opposed).

The Board then discussed the Police budget. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the department's request to designate the Traffic Officer assignment as a Sergeant's position instead of Patrol. Consensus was to not do this at this time. Mr. Carpenter motioned to add back in the budget \$11,530 in funds for a speed monitor trailer which had been requested by the department but removed by the Town Administrator due to other priorities. Mr. Breton seconded and motion passed 4-1 (Mr. Stearns opposed). Mr. Breton motioned to add back in the budget \$7,525 in funds for three Tasers and associated training costs which had been requested by the department but removed by the Town Administrator due to other priorities. Mrs. Crisler seconded and motion failed 2-3 (Mr. Hohenberger, Mr. Stearns and Mr. Carpenter opposed). Mr. Hohenberger motioned to remove from the proposed budget \$12,700 for Project 54 wireless costs and Mr. Breton seconded. Motion failed 2-2 (Mr. Stearns and Mrs. Crisler opposed with Mr. Carpenter abstaining). Mr. Hohenberger motioned to remove \$9,580 from the proposed budget designated for four new mobile radios for Sergeants. Mr. Stearns seconded; motion failed 2-3. Mr. Hohenberger motioned to remove \$3,000 from the proposed budget designated for improvements to the booking room surveillance system. Mr. Stearns seconded; motion failed 0-5.

Additional minor adjustments were made to the Police budget through the course of discussion. The Board then discussed the proposed Dispatch budget, with no changes made.

A discussion ensued regarding all departments that have a vehicle fuel budget as to what estimated fuel price we should use for 2006, due to the summer spike and recent decline in gas prices. Mr. Stearns motioned to budget \$2.00 per gallon. Mr. Breton seconded; motioned passed 5-0.

The Board then discussed the Fire department and Emergency Management budgets. A discussion ensued on the request for two additional firefighters conditional on receipt of SAFER grant funding which was previously supported by the Board. Mr. Hohenberger motioned to remove the two positions; motion failed due to no second. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the need for training additional paramedics in the department, as the proposed budget includes \$10,000 in funding for one replacement paramedic. Mr. Breton motioned to add back in the budget an additional \$10,000 in funds for training a second paramedic, which had been requested by the department but removed by the Town Administrator due to other priorities. Mr. Carpenter seconded; motion passed 4-1 (Mr. Stearns opposed). Mr. Hohenberger motioned to remove \$2,000 in funds designated for refurbishing Car 1 (Chief's car) and asked that the department look into the warranty or other alternatives. Mr. Carpenter seconded; motion passed 5-0. Mr. Carpenter motioned to reduce funding for the radio maintenance contract to \$0 and increase the budget for repairs to \$3,700. Mr. Stearns seconded; motion passed 5-0. The Board discussed the Emergency Management budget and made minor adjustments to the telephone portion of the budget.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Call
Finance Director

NOTE: These minutes are prepared in draft form and have not been submitted to the Board for approval.