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Selectboard:
Jan Gaudio
Walter Reitz
John Spear

Minutes
Board of Selectmen

Budget Committee

Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 **Time:** 6:00 pm **Place:** Remote Only, Zoom **REV:**0

Selectboard Present: Jan Gaudio, John Spear, Walter Reitz
Budget Committee Present: Moira Paddock, Robert Baines, Camille Minikis,
Linda Maltais, Sondra Wallace, Beverly St. Clair, Kate Greene, Jeff Northgraves
Also Present: Terri-Lynn Baines, Ambulance Director Amy Drinkwater, Fire Chief
Bryan Calderwood, Deputy Chief David Elwell, Pennie Alley

I. Call to Order

Reitz called the meeting to order at 6:02

II. Adjustments to Agenda

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

IV. Approve Minutes

*The Budget Committee approved their minutes.
Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to approve the minutes of March 29, 2021.*

Motion passed 3-0

V. 2021-2022 Budget Review
a. Ambulance

*Director Amy Drinkwater and Assistant Director David Elwell introduced themselves.
Bob Baines, Sondra Wallace, and Linda Maltais as new members introduced themselves.*

*Changes in Department 580
Increased wages, new computer, fax, a scoop stretcher. Increase in insurance.
Paddock asked about reimbursement from FEMA. Drinkwater explained the process
of submitting to FEMA and being reimbursed.
Drinkwater explained wages. There is no increase for her, but a 3% increase for her
deputy. A discussion on wages followed.*

The Ambulance Service has 23 members. They had 202 calls in 2020. This is a decrease from 2021, due to Covid.

Drinkwater explained mutual aid to Vinalhaven and North Haven.

The Ambulance is now staffed 7 days a week. If we have to call Rockland to take a call Rockland charges \$850 to the town and then charges the patient. There was a discussion on weekend coverage and pay. This was an atypical year with Covid. The Service had more expenses and less calls. There was a discussion on worker's comp insurance.

The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the budget of 580 Ambulance Service in the amount of \$352,177

Spear asked for clarification about coverage and wages. Drinkwater confirmed coverage is 12 hours a day, 2 people, 365 days a year. Also, \$35 a person to be on call 6 pm to 6am.

Spear talked about the increase in the budget over the last 6 years. Gaudio asked for a breakdown of actual cost of labor, six months, and 12 months.

Reitz talked of activity levels of the ambulance service and cost of increasing wages and equipment. He also talked about Regional Service.

There was a discussion on the budget of St. George. It has also increased due to wages. St. George has a medic on call 24/7. The town contributes \$130,000. The remaining amount is funded by donations and grants. Drinkwater explained the grants The St. George Volunteer Fire Fighter and Ambulance Association received.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to preliminarily approve the Ambulance Service 580 budget in the amount of \$352,177.

Motion passed 3-0

Reserves

Request Ambulance Reserve \$10,000.00

Request Defib Reserve \$5000.00

Ambulance Reserve should not have a request because we are paying back the ambulance. Northgraves asked the cost of a new ambulance. At \$10,000 a year, it will take approximately 20 years to get a new ambulance. Usually replace an ambulance between 10 and 15 years.

The Budget Committee funded Ambulance Defib Defibrillator and not the Ambulance Reserve.

There was a brief discussion on funding or not funding the Ambulance Reserve Account.

Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to preliminarily approve 0 funding for the Ambulance Reserve and \$5,000 for the Ambulance Defibrillator Reserve.

Motion passed 3-0

Fire Department

Chief Calderwood presented a power point slide show. After the power point Chief Calderwood gave a breakdown of trainings and calls.

Chief Calderwood talked about his budget. Wages, 3% across the board. Chief reviewed contracted services. Discussion on Misc. repair. Why so high in 2020 actuals. Chief Calderwood said he focused on getting out of service items back in service. There was a discussion on the fire pond maintenance line and how it was funded last year and how it should be funded this year and what amount.

Explanation of tablets used by the Fire Department.

Dues fees travel, not much change.

Discussion on training increase.

Truck station supplies increased. No questions.

Equipment. Chief explained what Turnout gear consists of and showed what a SCBA mask looks like and how it works. Masks are roughly \$400 each. He also explained the need for SCBA air packs. The budget amount is for 4 air packs. There was a brief discussion on applying for grants.

Chief Calderwood applied for a grant for an exhaust system. The cost to the town would be \$3000 if the grant is awarded.

Thermal imaging camera. Deputy Chief Elwell explained what a Thermal Imaging Camera is and how it works. The Department uses the camera on 99% of their calls.

If the Chief does not get a grant for the exhaust system, he has an agreement with the company to purchase the system and make payments over three years at \$18,000 a year. A discussion of the grant costs vs non grant cost followed.

4 Survival Suits for water rescue. Replacing suits donated by the Coast Guard. The Chief has applied for a grant for the survival suits.

The Budget Committee preliminarily approved the Fire Department budget in the amount of \$201,420.

There was a discussion on regionalization. At some point towns need to decide if they can afford to be individual departments. Discussion on how the fire department and ambulance got to such budget increases. Mandate's change, but funding does not. Does it make sense to stagger items we buy so they do not all need to be replaced at once.

The Selectboard had a discussion on line 471 Vehicle Maint/Repairs and the Repeater. Spear pointed out that Bryan has brought in a significant amount of money through grants.

Bryan's request for a wage increase will be discussed before Thursday.

Spear supports the budget the way it stands. Gaudio is inclined not to support the

Thermal Imaging Camera, non-grant exhaust system and 2 survival suits.

Gaudio moved we approve as a preliminary amount. \$176,120

Reitz feels long term the fire department is unsustainable unless there is some major change. There was a discussion on the exhaust system.

Spear will second the motion as long as the \$18,000 for the exhaust system non grant is in the budget somewhere.

Gaudio withdrew his motion.

Gaudio moved and Spear seconded a motion to preliminarily approve the 570 Fire Department budget in the amount of \$194,120.

Reserve accounts

Amounts requested

Fire Pond Maintenance 0

Fire Truck Reserve \$52,900

Fire Equipment Reserve \$10,000

Fire SCBA Reserve 0

Fire Truck Repair Reserve 0

Cascade Air System \$5000

Communications \$5000

Chief explained the need for reserve accounts to help fund future purchases.

Chief explained what the cascade system is and why it important for the Town to have our own cascade system.

The budget committee approved the fire truck reserve at \$52,900 and the Fire Equipment Reserve at \$15,000

The Selectboard had a discussion on the cascade system being regionalized.

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to reduce the Fire Pond Reserve to 0, leave the Fire Truck Reserve at \$52,900, increase the Fire Equipment Reserve to \$15000, eliminate the Cascade Air System Reserve and eliminate the Communication Reserve.

Motion passed 3-0

Discussion on old budget committee meetings minutes that need to be approved.

VI. Adjournment

Spear moved and Gaudio seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:45

Motion passed 3-0

Approved by Selectboard 3/31/2021