

Selectmen's Meeting – November 13, 2010

Present were Selectmen Nancy L. Carlson and Deborah J. Davis. Selectman Tatro was absent. Also present was Town Administrator Beth Fox.

Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review with several departments budget proposal for 2011.

Police Department

Chief Busick requested Selectmen approval of his participation in FBI LEEDA training in March 2011. Selectmen supported the training request.

Request to grant an exception to the town's leave policy for an employee scheduled to participate in an externship (initially set for November/December 2010) now scheduled for January and February 2011 allowing carry over of earned time was granted by Selectmen.

Chief Busick's advised his budget focus remains improving the department's competitiveness as relates to wages. Budget 2011 proposes to freeze (but not eliminate) the 12th officer's position which is currently vacant and use a portion of the funds for that position toward wage enhancement for remaining personnel. Overtime and how it might be impacted was discussed with Busick attributing over-expenditures anticipated in 2010 to injury and turnover and training related to filling a position in the spring of 2010. Other line items with marked increases in 2011 include vehicle fuel and heating due to anticipated cost increases. Replacement of cruisers was discussed with Busick proposing continuing the current 3 year cycle initiate leasing of 3 front line cars in 2011. Whether anticipated requirements related to radio upgrades should be included in this cycle cruiser up fit will be investigated. Cost increases in the prosecution program attributable to expiration of the grant support initially obtained by the town were reviewed. Calls for service and criminal activity in the community and region attributable to drug addiction were discussed. Development of a succession plan and investment in personnel to prepare for retirements of senior officers was also discussed.

Department of Public Works

DPW Director Lee Dunham reviewed submissions for this department reporting increases attributable to fuel. Budget numbers are weather driven and were developed by assessing historical experience and developing an "average". Salt numbers were developed based on estimated usage of 1300 tons annually. Work included in the Cemetery and Parks budget was reviewed and projects included were primarily at Brown Field, re-painting of the tomb at Homestead Cemetery, tree removal at Mt. Caesar and modifications to the tomb at Mt. View. Pavement plans for 2011 were discussed at length with Selectmen suggesting deferring of Main Street and including funds to develop plans to ensure a coordinated improvement project. Capital reserve contributions proposed were reviewed with Dunham advising he would provide more detail and update the plans related to equipment and vehicles and road surface management. Those updates were requested by November 19.

Recycling Center

Solid Waste Manager David Krisch and Assistant Solid Waste Manager Steve Stewart reviewed with Selectmen at department's budget submission. Krisch reviewed expenditure experience in 2010 and areas which had been problematic including equipment maintenance and new equipment. Roof repairs are planned for 2011. More effort on property clean up is also anticipated as dam removal dropping the water level in the river has exposed historical debris which should be collected. Krisch advised that C & D disposal was for the most part a self

sustaining line item. He projected that the department would end the year approximately \$10,000 under budget in 2010 and advised he would monitor and review the 2011 proposal to determine if further modifications could be made to the funding request. Contributions to the newly established revolving fund were also reviewed.

Insurance

Funding proposals for this area of the budget were reviewed with Selectmen. Rate increases for general liability and property were budgeted. Unemployment costs, attributable to the economy, are increasing on a percentage basis significantly in 2011. Worker's compensation rates are also increasing but impact will be moderated by improvement in the town's experience rating. Health insurance premiums decreased slightly and Selectmen approving proceeding (as a cost containment measure) with modification to the health plan offering.

Meeting adjourned 11:55 a.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator