

FILED

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Feb 15 2017 AT 12:10 AM (PM)

SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2017

(C. M. Gallo, Clerk)

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Marc Salerno, Dan Cunningham. Paul Dagle arrived at 6:05 p.m.

EXCUSED: Rose Ann Hardy

Mr. Nickerson called the Special Meeting for the purpose of Budget Reviews to order at 6:04 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Flanders Fire Department - #218

Chief Jim Levandoski and Deputy Chief Bill Rix were present to speak on their budget. Negotiations will be starting soon as their contract is up for renewal in June. The overtime numbers are up due to the fact that they had a full time employee out on leave, who has since returned so back to full salary. Ms. Johnson noted that there is a small cushion in the budget because of the full time firefighter that was out on leave if additional unanticipated repairs come up.

Mr. Nickerson made note of the State's intention to penalize Towns that come in with a larger than 2.5% increase.

Chief Levandoski reported that the line item Uniforms #313 is for the part time firefighters at \$250.00 per firefighter; the three full time firefighters have their uniforms provided as part of their union contract.

Regarding Vehicle Maintenance #220, Mr. Salerno inquired as to why this budget line has only gone down \$500 as there were two new vehicles purchased recently. Deputy Chief Rix reported that the pumper has been requiring a lot of maintenance so the money is being spent on that vehicle.

Mr. Seery inquired about the increase in the Fuels #301 line item. Deputy Chief Rix stated that the 2016 Actual Expense number includes gasoline only, no propane. This year's budget includes the propane, which is used for cooking and for the generator.

Niantic Fire Department - #217

Chief Steve Wargo was present to speak on the budget. This budget is higher than Flanders because there are two stations and four full time fire fighters; they also have 9 part time employees. And for these part time employees, the budget for uniforms is \$250.00 per person. The Radio Maintenance #221 line item is for the replacement on the batteries on all of the radios, which needs to be done, and costs approximately \$50 per radio. Mr. Seery noted that \$3000 in the line item for Building Maintenance is lower than expected, and Chief Wargo credited Ron Bence for keeping up with the maintenance for them to keep everything running as smooth as it has.

Mr. Dagle inquired as to the line item Miscellaneous Equipment #223; Chief Wargo explained that they had to replace hoses that were manufactured before 1987, which depleted what they had for spare hosing.

Emergency Management - #224

Fire Marshal Dick Morris was present to speak on the budget. He noted that in previous budgets Dispatch was a part of the Emergency Management budget, but this year it has been separated out into its own budget, which accounts for the 17.82% decrease in the overall budget. The PT Fire Marshal position has been increased by 10 hours per week due to the increase in construction projects

in Town, which explains the increase in that line item. Mr. Morris reported that they performed 800 inspections in 2016.

Finance Director Anna Johnson reported that in June of 2016, the combined departments of Emergency Management and Dispatch expended a total of \$675K from the budget of \$681,331 for 2016/2017. Separating the budgets resulted in an increase of about 6% in the Dispatchers Personnel budget. The Dispatch positions will be shifted over to the Police Department, but Mr. Morris will still be overseeing the technical aspect of the position.

Dispatch - #215

Mr. Nickerson explained that the Misc Supplies line item includes office supplies and IT/computer equipment. The IMC camera system is owned by the Ambulance Fund.

Mr. Salerno inquired as to why the increase in the Misc Supplies line item, and Mr. Morris reported that because the Dispatch group has split off, they needed to purchase some office equipment of their own.

Mr. Nickerson called for a recess at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Cunningham left the meeting during the recess.

The Board of Selectman reconvened at 7:02 p.m., and Mr. Nickerson called the meeting back to order.

Public Safety/Police Department - #216

Sgt. Mike Macek was present to speak on this budget. He reported that in the Governor's budget the cost of the Resident State Trooper will fall 100% on the shoulders of the Town, plus an additional stipend per police officer, so transitioning to an independent police force is happening at a good time fiscally. Mr. Dagle noted that although this year's budget is high in order to allow for the transition from Resident State Trooper to Police Chief, it is an investment and will yield savings going forward.

Mr. Salerno inquired about the new line item for Facility Rental. Mr. Nickerson reported that we are in the middle of negotiating an MOU with the Waterford Police Department to share their facilities, and the \$50K is an approximate at the moment until the MOU is finalized, but it is a good number. Sharing facilities with Waterford makes a lot sense for the coming year while we transition into the new independent police force and that there will be grants available to use to start thinking about our own facility in the future. There is no line item for fuel as this comes from the Public Works budget.

Mr. Seery inquired as to the increase in the Longevity/Shift Differential/Stipend, and Sgt. Macek stated that this expense moved from Police Officers #511 into #516, so it's not technically an increase just a lateral move into a different line item.

Ms. Johnson reported that Police Officers #511 includes salaries, detective stipends of \$2K a detective for two detectives, estimated payout of holiday.

Mr. Dagle inquired as to how much overtime has been expended to-date. Ms. Johnson reported 77% of the budget expended, or \$214,726. Sgt. Macek reported that there were five officers out on leave at one time, so that increased the OT number; two officers remain out on leave. Regular officer salaries are on target at 62%.

Mr. Nickerson reported that Resident Trooper #115 salary can be paid with 2016/17 Contingency, thus reducing the amount needed in the 2017/18 budget.

#412 Part time Clerical has increased due to hiring a new person to man the Police Department reception from 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. during the week; it has become necessary to have the building available to the public past 4:30 p.m. In the 2016/17 budget year it was decided to wait until January 2017 to hiring this part time person in order to cut the cost for the budget year. It will now increase in the 2017/18 budget to pay for the full year salary.

Mr. Nickerson noted that Computer Maintenance #214 will need to be corrected and an additional \$5K added back into to this line item. Originally requested \$10K; was cut to \$5K, but needs to be put back to what was requested because \$10K is needed for the yearly contract with Star Computers.

Mr. Dagle inquired about the vehicle for the new Police Chief; this is currently being worked on, but the vehicle will be funded out of the Capital Budget, as well as two new squad cars.

Public Safety - #226

Sgt. Macek reported that we currently share the ACO and the part time ACO with Waterford. Waterford maintains the facility and we maintain the vehicle and supply the fuel, which is funded out of the Public Works budget. We recently hired a part time/assistant ACO, and that salary is also shared 50/50 with Waterford.

Mr. Nickerson stated that we have thought about building a shared facility that would reside in Montville, and we would share resources with other Towns, as well as Waterford.

Mr. Nickerson stated that the Parks and Recreation budget has been moved to the March 1st agenda.

Mr. Nickerson adjourned the February 13, 2017, meeting of the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of budget reviews at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary