

Pownal Budget Committee

Approved Minutes of February 29 Meeting

February 29, 2012

Meeting convened at 7 pm, chair Andy Wyatt.

Members present: Kim Best, John Green, Carlene Harvey, Mary Ann Hodsdon, Kathy Hogue, Jan Pieter van Voorst van Beest and Andy Wyatt.

Members absent: Jeremy Willis.

Roll Call: A quorum was established, Agenda confirmed.

Guests: Fire Chief Jesse Peters, Susan Peters.

Secretary's Minutes: Minutes of the Meeting of January 4th were unanimously approved. Motion by Carlene Harvey, Seconded by Kathy Hogue and Jan Pieter v. V. v. B.

Public Comment: None

Selectmen's Comment: There were no selectmen present but a letter from the Select Board to Jamie Welch was mentioned in which the board proposed to the department heads to present three versions of the budget: 1: A normally prepared budget, 2nd: A budget which would present a 5% reduction versus last years budget, and 3rd: A budget in which the increase would be limited (in keeping with LD1) to a 1.027% increase.

A brief discussion on this request followed. Carlene Harvey stated that she felt that first of all the budgets presented needed to be responsible. Various variables affecting the budgets were discussed such as: Debt service and income of the gasline (Green) and revenue sharing (Harvey).

Budget Proposal: Firechief Jesse Peters presented the budget for Public Safety.

All items previously presented into the EMS account have been put into different other accounts for purposes of streamlining the budget. None of the proposed EMS accounts presented either an increase or a decrease.

Public Safety: Account was increased by \$ 500.00 due to an increase of EMS Transport Services fees by Freeport.

FD Administration went up by \$260.00 due to increases in NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency) and IMC (Incident Management Corporation) Support.

Payroll: No changes.

FD Utilities: A total reduction of \$ 190.00 due to an anticipated decrease in the cost of propane. There was a slight increase in the cost of telephone and internet.

Building Maintenance: A total increase of \$ 455.00 because of anticipated installation of windows and increase of cost of building supplies. Savings on furnace cleaning because of the conversion to natural gas.

Equipment and Supplies: A total increase of \$ 1448.00 due to increases in the cost or purchase of Foam, hand tools, nozzles and a Jaffrey Valve, offset by savings in the cost of hose (we gained some hose from Cape Elizabeth) and savings on extinguishers.

FD Health and Safety: An increase of \$ 240.00 There were savings because of a reduction in the total number of safety vests, but an increase because of the need for replacement gear and hoods.

FD Communications: No changes.

Vehicle Equipment Maintenance: An increase of \$ 490.00 due to assumed increases of diesel fuel and gasoline.

John Green asked why the budget for Yearly Truck Maintenance would not be decreased because the fact that maintenance cost on the new fire truck (expected to go into service in midyear) should be less than the maintenance cost projected. A new truck's maintenance costs should be significantly less than the maintenance costs of an old truck. Jesse Peters promised he would investigate this.

FD Training: A \$100.00 increase because of an increase in training materials.

The overall budget presented proposed a total increase of 3.13% over last year's budget. The chief stated this was a very tight budget and that he anticipated difficulty in producing further savings that would total to 5% savings versus the previous year's budget. There were some brief general discussions on the difficulties of staffing and retaining personnel for the fire department, watersourcing and truck certification.

Chairman Andy Wyatt will contact the committee members about the date of the next meeting, which was tentatively scheduled for 3/7/2012. The subject will be compensation which the selectmen will discuss during their meeting on 3/5/2012 which is why the next Budget Committee meeting may be postponed.

The meeting adjourned at 8.10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Pieter van Voorst van Beest