



## Freetown Finance Committee



March 9, 2016 @ 6:00 PM

Met with the BOS to go over budgets – Lee Baumgardner called meeting to order 6:00 PM. Just Kent was present at time.

Members Present: Kent, Joel, George, Brad

1 – Police: Most of the personnel lines are attributed to the officers' move due to status changes. Chief Abbott supplied a breakdown of each officer.

\$500 was to pay for dues for a new organization: Bristol County Chiefs Association.

\$3,183 is for Power DMS which is a resource/program for all employees. Currently it is used to train new officers, keep officers trained in policies and procedures, orientation, job descriptions, yearly sexual harassment training, lower town liability, and stores electronically secure signatures. It can be used by up to 50 users so other departments have the capability to use it. Last year was paid by a grant.

Chief Abbott is fighting to replace an officer that was lost during the 2008 recession. Does the department need more or less staffing? Chief stated that there are 9,000 residents in the town and 18 officers are employed. There are several formulas that can be used: the FBI has a per capita approach where you would need 3.1 officers per 1,000 residents; International Association of Police which is very difficult to use; minimum staff approach with the safety of the officers and the community kept in play; and the budget approach which is guided by how many can the budget afford. Chief Abbott used the IACP staff formula which goes by activities/work load required to perform job which requires adding 2 more officers, he is asking for one. This was based on the 2014 Table 71 figure.

Lee stated that due to the current arbitration it would be difficult to make a motion on this budget as the figures are not known at this time – could go up 15%. Paul made a motion that Chief Abbott create a new budget showing a decrease in O/T and an added officer and bring it back before the BOS. Lee seconded.

Brad opened the FinCom meeting at 6:38

Paul asked how many hours were O/T. Chief Abbott said it was hard to tell because O/T was used for coverage for vacation time, sick time, court presence, the academy. 50% coverage is done by the part-time officers and about 40% is actual O/T.

George made a motion that the needs of the department should be met. No second.

**Kent made a motion to HOLD until Chief Abbott was able to come back with the new figures requested by the BOS, seconded by Joel – unanimous.**



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2 – Communications: BOS asked where the increase of \$1300 for training was coming from. At this time Chief Abbott did not have the information in front of him. Paul made a motion for Chief Abbott to come back with the info, Lee seconded. Chief Abbott agreed.

**Motion to HOLD until the information was available, seconded by Joel – unanimous.**

3 – Fire: Mandated 1.5% contractual increase.

\$8,000 medical bill is for what purpose? Currently using a shared clerk to complete the task of medical billing. After a conversation between Chief Silvia and Kim, it was added to the budget with regards to outsourcing the medical billing. It would cover the period of January 2016 to June 2016. After that, it would be 4% of all monies collected. Because they have more man power and more resources, and insurance coverage knowledge, the possibility of our getting more medical bills paid will offset the 4% payout. The BOS will still maintain their authority of the billing.

Looking to add another fireman. Day personnel works 4 10-hour days, would be cost effective to add a third person to use as a filler. Currently there are 28 call firefighters and we have mutual aid from surrounding departments.

Paul made a motion to approve budget with Chief Silvia coming back with new numbers cutting O/T and adding another fireman. Lee seconded.

George made a motion to wait on voting - no second.

**Kent made a motion to approve with information to this point including medical billing, but waiting on third person coverage, seconded by Joel – unanimous.**

Chief asked if he should put in a request for monies to purchase a new ambulance cart and power stretcher (manual has potential for lifting injuries) or if it should be added to the budget. Kim advised that he request monies from the FinCom to cover the initial outlay for the cost and include it in the budget for 2017. Currently we have two ambulances and a new one has been ordered. It would make more sense to outfit the new ambulance with the new ambulance cart and tracking while it is being built vs after it is received. The new cart would be a state regulation effective July 1, 2016. They currently have \$15,190 and are short \$5,000. Chief Silvia will request the \$5,000 from the FinCom.

Would it make sense to set up a capital stabilization fund to purchase police cruisers instead of leasing from Ford Motor Company at 6% interest? Someone will check into it. The lease program needs to be ratified.

Paul made a motion for BOS to adjourn, seconded by Lee.

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The minutes of the last meeting and the correction to the meeting minutes of March 3, 2016, were passed out. Brad asked for a motion to accept.

**Motion to accept the minutes was made by Joel, seconded by Kent – unanimous.**

Brad made a request from Ali to send the FinCom a copy of the Police Contract so that they can go over and understand.

Kent requested that the FinCom put HOLDS on the budgets for Trash (under contract) and Schools (incomplete). Brad said they would be discussed at the next meeting which he will schedule.

Brad requested I keep a log of the budgets that have already been approved by the FinCom, and which have HOLDS.

**Motion to adjourn was made by Joel, seconded by George – unanimous.**

Meeting adjourned 7:34 PM

Respectfully submitted  
Lois Amaral  
Finance Committee Clerk

Respectfully submitted with changes – Lois Amaral

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