

TOWN OF LYME
Budget Committee
P.O. Box 126
Lyme, NH 03768-0126
Town Office conference room
October 11, 2023
Approved: October 18, 2023

Present: James Graham, Richard Jones, Brian Spence, Bill Malcolm, Scott May, Hayes Greenway, Vince Berk, Wilkes McClave, Jennifer Boylston, School Board Representative and Judy Brotman, Select Board Representative.

Administrator: Dina Cutting

Department heads: Road Agent Scott Bailey, Police Chief Shaun O'Keefe, Fire Chief Aaron Rich and Emergency Management Director Michael Hinsley.

The meeting was opened at 7:00PM by Chair Jones.

Introduction of Budget Committee members were made.

Mrs. Brotman moved to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2023. Seconded by Mr. May. No changes were offered. The committee voted in favor with 3 abstentions (May, Greenway & McClave).

Department presentations:

Police-The following topics were reviewed and discussed:

- Department is down to 1 full time officer. Advertisements have been put out. At this time many police departments are looking to recruit officers. Most are offering hiring bonuses.
- The budget has been presented with 2 full time officers with benefits.
- Chief O'Keefe review the NH police employee standards.
- Various questions were asked and answered.

Emergency Management Director- The following topics were reviewed and discussed:

- Mr. Hinsley review the work being done on the update for the hazard mitigation plan that is taking place presently.
- The roads staying open and passable during weather events is very important to the safety of the community. The budget request for \$9,600 is for a blower to aid in keeping the ditches clear of environmental debris. Leaves and plugged culverts are the main cause of road damage.
- \$1,500 is for signage and other aids during weather events.
- Various questions were asked and answered.

Fire Department- The following topics were reviewed and discussed:

- Chief Rich reviewed various lines that have increased.
- The vehicle repair line is up in order to keep Engine 2 running well and enable the Fire Department to extend the use of this vehicle
- Building expenses, dry hydrant maintenance and equipment were reviewed.
- New replacement engines are estimated to be around \$900,000. They are 2 years out from the order date. This needs to be considered and planned for.

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- Increased training. More Fire Fighters and EMS volunteers were noted.
- Capital Reserve Fund for Fire Fighter Safety Equipment was used to purchase gear this year. They will need to continue to fund this CRF.
- Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund pertaining to Fire Truck purchases in the future were briefly discussed.

Highway Department- The following topics were reviewed and discussed:

- Road Agent, Scott Bailey reviewed various lines in the budget.
- Culvert size, replacement and maintenance were discussed.
- Mr. Bailey has a full crew to enter into the winter season.
- The longevity of the trucks was discussed. Mr. Bailey would like to shorten the replacement schedule from 10 to 7 years on the ton trucks. The F-550's can be purchased with a 7-year warranty. He has found that after 7 years the Town is spending well over the cost of the warranty in repairs. More discussion on this later in the budget cycle.

There being no further departments scheduled at this time Chair Jones opened the floor for general discussion.

At 8:17PM Mr. Malcolm moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Berk. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Dina