

The Wilbraham Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall
February 16, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Present: Dan Miles, Walt Damon, John Guzzo, Anna Levine, Nancy Piccin,
Carolyn Brennan, Mike Mannix, Todd Luzi

Absent:

Also present: Town Accountant Nancy Johnson, Dispatch Supervisor Shirley Rae, Police Chief Roger Tucker.

Open Forum

Dan Miles suggested we spend next Finance Committee meeting with the BOS to discuss the Restoration List. Also, to ensure there is enough time to fully discuss the restoration list, he suggested rescheduling IT Director Nathan Delong to a later date, as there is no change in his budget.

Vote Minutes

MOTION: Accept the minutes for the February 9, 2016 Finance Committee meeting. Seconded, voted unanimously. (Mike Mannix, Todd Luzi abstain)

FY2017 Budget

DISPATCH

Dispatch Supervisor Shirley Rae presented her budget. She is asking for \$10,000 increase in her overtime budget for FY17.

- In FY15 the expended budget for overtime was \$56,367, but the total actually spent on overtime was \$81,135. She was able to use 911 grant money to make up the difference.
- If 911 grant money dries up, she would have no grant to fall back on for overtime. Shirley was told by 911 that the grant should continue.
- There are 233 predictable open shifts already known for FY17, which results in a worst case scenario of \$75,688 in overtime.
- Open shifts MUST be covered. Per union contract Shirley must offer these shifts to full-time employees (first denial) before they can be offered to a part-time employee, who would be paid considerably less.
- Four of her five full-timers get paid \$36.24/hr for overtime. Her part-time regular hourly wage is \$18.85/hr.

Shirley has requested a new part-time employee, this request was added to the restoration list, and would add \$10,000 to the part-time salaries for FY17.

- The part-timer would cover a Sunday shift, as Dispatch can no longer effectively and efficiently cover busy shifts with only one dispatcher. Dispatch receives calls for police, fire, dog officer and DPW.
- A new part-time person would create a bigger pool to choose from to cover open shifts that full-timers have declined.
- Dispatch currently has 5 full-timers, one part-timer and a Supervisor, to cover 7 days 24hrs/day.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Roger Tucker presented his budget. The Chief was able to increase and decrease several expense lines in order to present a level funded budget for FY2017.

- FY17 is a 3 cruiser cycle year. Three cruisers will cost \$105,000, and this figure is in the non-recurring budget line. Chief Tucker provided a list of current cruisers.
- Also included in the non-recurring budget line is \$14,000 for 8 AR-15 semi-automatic rifles.
 - Currently Police officers have hand guns and shot guns.
 - Shot guns are accurate and effective up to 75 yards.
 - These rifles improve accuracy and effectiveness up to 300 yards.
 - Police Officers will be thoroughly trained on the rifles.
- The sick leave buy-back line item is funded at \$24,997 as there are two pending retirements
- A new Patrolman position has been added to the restoration list at a cost of \$54,000.
 - Chief said in a recent study that a town the size of Wilbraham would need approximately 29 officers. We now have 26, of which 3 are out with injuries.
- In order to expedite the hiring of a new patrolman, the Chief requested funding in the amount of \$19,763 to pay for the two potential retirees Vacation, personal days, and holidays buyouts.

MOTION: Approve a reserve fund transfer of \$30,000 to the Police overtime fund. Seconded, voted unanimously.

MOTION: Approve a reserve fund transfer to Selectmen's dues/training/travel line for professional development for Boston. Seconded, voted unanimously.

Debbie Brennan
Staff Accountant