

Meeting Minutes
Exeter Fire Department
Budget Sub Committee Meeting
October 21, 2013

The second Fire Department Budget Sub Committee Meeting was held Monday, October 21st in the Fire Department Training Room. The meeting commenced at 9:10 am; in attendance were committee members Allan Corey, Harry Thayer, Fran Hall and Nelson Lourenco; Selectman Chairman Don Clement and Selectman Frank Ferraro we also in attendance.

Subcommittee Chairman Alan Corey opened the meeting to review the previous meeting of October 18th and review and determine recommendations to the full budget committee.

Mr. Corey started the meeting with the fire department's budget being up \$180,000 from last year s budget of this \$180,000, \$138,000 is for contractual expenses.

His first point of business was discussion was upgrading the Deputy Health Officer position from part time (32 hours weekly) to full time (40 hours weekly). Mr. Corey indicated the review of responsibility, with the real concern being is the health department beneficial to all. Mr. Thayer stated the health department is being cared of adequately at the expense of the fire department. Mr. Lourenco asked what exactly is mandated. Inspections? Mr. Lourenco believes department must push back, questions if enough inspections warrant it. His concern is what is being neglected, EMS and fire suppression?

Mr. Thayer requested department revenues for the past two years as well as current inspection fees. Records indicated fees generated 50% towards the salary of the Deputy Health Officer. Mr. Corey asked if they are ready to look at recommending: Favor 3, Not 1.

Mr. Corey started a discussion on department physical. The department is requesting \$14,732.00. Per Mr. Thayer this expenditure is physicals for ½ the department employees, making this a reoccurring expenditure.

Mr. Corey asked why physicals are not a contractual item. Ms. Hall believes we are between a rock and a hard place and questions if it should be in the contract. Selectman Ferraro provided information about private insurance and co pays. Chief Comeau was asked to join the meeting to discuss physicals. Several points were brought up for discussion; employees using regular insurance, if NFPA requirements cannot be met, they can refer patient to appropriate venues. Mr. Thayer was concerned that Call Firefighters are not included in this program.

After much discussion it was voted not to recommend, 3 against, 1 abstains.
Selectman Chair Don Clement left the meeting at 9:50 am.

Fire Alarm system has a \$3000.00 increase to replace the computer for the Keltron system.
Recommendation in favor by all.

Uniforms, all recommended in favor to recommend.

Fitness Equipment under general equipment, Fit Trax machine, budget item is up \$4846.00. This piece of equipment replaces our outdated existing weight system. Recommendation in favor 3, abstain 1.

SCBA – Recommendation all in favor.

Water Quality Testing at Sportsman’s Club. Ms. Hall wants explanation of club. Mr. Corey explained lease land; we need to monitor lead into water supply. Selectman Ferraro gave brief history of club and lease. As it stands, the Town is responsible for any maintenance after the Sportsman’s Club lease was signed in 2009.

All committee members voted in favor of water testing.

Turnout Gear has an increase of \$750.00

Committee members voted in favor to recommend.

Radio repairs has an increase of \$500.00

Committee members voted in favor to recommend.

Office Equipment has an increase of \$400.00

Committee members voted in favor to recommend.

Chairman Corey needed to leave the meeting at 10:50 am, turned the meeting over to Mr. Thayer

Replacement Utility Truck – Mr. Lourenco noted the truck has 105,000 miles on it and does not think it warrants replacement. Mr. Thayer reiterated that this truck is a work truck, it tows all the department trailers and the boat as well as it is a people mover. The body is rusting badly; the back end of the truck has already been replaced. To date, repairs/maintenance to this truck is \$16,000. Trade in value is \$3000.

Committee members voted in favor to recommend.

Fire Alarm Truck - Mr. Thayer noted that the biggest problem with the fire alarm truck is that it with the new higher poles, it cannot reach the fire alarm wires. Problem being the lift of the truck not the age.

Ms. Hall concerned with cost of equipment, not the truck. She would like to hear more about leasing from the Budget Committee. Mr. Thayer would also support lease purchase.

The committee is not in favor of another purchase at this time.

Water Tower Radio Improvements – Mr. Thayer expressed how frustrating it is to be on scene of an emergency and have no contact with the Dispatch Center. Mr. Lourenco questioned it’s just the cost of antennas and does not think the town warrants this type of system; per Mr. Thayer the Fire Dept. already has the radio.

Chief Comeau was asked to join the meeting to discuss the radio system. He covered the repeater license and radio coverage answering related questions.

The Committee voted to not recommend at this time, they believe more research is needed to consider other needs.

Sub Station – Ms. Hall stated that the budget does not show full costs and questions having one (1) station for town. Mr. Lourenco stated there are still too many questions, mostly manning issues. He does not believe that Epping Road has enough development and is concerned that we do not have the density to warrant another station.

Two members voted to not recommend, one abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Baillargeon
Office Manager, Exeter Fire Dept.