

MINUTES OF EXETER BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS COMMITTEE

POLICE/FIRE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

September 29, 2017

Attendance: Subcommittee members Judy Rowan, Peter Lennon; Exeter Town Manager Russell Dean

The Police/Fire Subcommittee met with the Town Manager to discuss a Fiscal Year 2018 (FY 18) proposal to spend \$45,000 for a “Public Safety Study” to gather, analyze, and interpret a more detailed level of data with respect to public safety activity levels relating to staffing and a second fire station. These funds are in addition to the \$45,000 proposed for FY 18 in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for a facility needs assessment and additional planning associated with a second fire station.

According to the Town Manager, the facility needs assessment would be an agreed upon part of the Public Safety Study, and the Study would focus additionally on a full analysis of the Town’s Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) activity to create a baseline to inform future resource decisions.

The Town Manager believes that the additional data gathering, analysis, and interpretation can be provided using currently available technology and a possible upgrade to existing Fire Department software, along with a review of the activity reporting system and the reports it produces regularly.

The Town Manager indicated that a fuller understanding of Fire/EMS activity levels, including call length, type, response policy, and dispatch call coding will improve significantly Exeter’s ability to make long-term decisions in the public safety area.

Subcommittee members requested that the Town Manager provide them with a more detailed justification for the Study, including a proposed statement of work, cost breakdown, and schedule for Study initiation and receipt of results. The Subcommittee members also asked for more information about the relationship between the Public Safety Study and the CIP project, including the potential for overlap and economies of scale between the two.