

TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

Location: Wilton Fire Station
7:00 P.M.

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

Members Present: Cary Hughes, Chairman; Don Davidson (arrived 7:36) Harry Dailey; Joyce Fisk; Donna Pucciarello; William Condra, Selectmen Rep.; and Dawn Tuomala, Secretary

Attendance: Scott Butcher, Town Administrator; Chief Ray Dick

1. Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

2. Review and Approval of June 23, 2016 Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Dailey to accept the minutes of June 23, 2016 as amended; seconded by Mr. Davidson; all in favor; motion passes unanimously.

3. Public Comments – Chief Dick explained that they have had to unexpectedly rebuild the pump on Engine #2 and have had to purchase new front tires.

When asked, Chief Dick agreed that the Budget Committee could meet at the Fire Station for their meetings.

Scott Butcher was introduced as the new Town Administrator and he will be participating at the Budget Committee process as a Selectman's representative. After discussion, it was decided that there still needs to be a Selectman's representative on the Committee as a voting member and that Mr. Butcher, while his input will be invaluable to the Committee, will not vote.

4. Expenditures through May 2016

Mr. Butcher explained that there was a 7% rate hike in Eversource fees but that the Town was now talking with NRPC to save \$10,700 in electric fees so they will be locked in from November 2016 to October 2017. It will be a small savings for this year.

The Ambulance has a miscellaneous labor line of \$250 should be categorized. After review it was determined it was paid to Peterborough. There was discussion about the wages EMT's verses Paramedics. There was discussion about the pay scale and whether it was comparable to other Towns in the area. They will be asking for another increase in wages.

Mr. Butcher also stated that there are many unassigned shifts and that Chief Zirpolo is taking those on to fill in the gaps. The process to get more employees has been unsuccessful at this point. On average there are about 1.2 calls per day and this isn't enough action for some

TOWN OF WILTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes for September 22, 2016

people. There was discussion about making another paramedic a full time position to help fill in some of the gaps. This would free Chief Zirpolo to do other duties and keep him on salary and not hourly. When speaking with other Towns, Mr. Butcher determined that all of the shifts for the coming month were filled while Wilton's was mostly empty and that we are working on a week to week basis verses a monthly time frame.

Other than the electric increases in each of the budgets everything else appears to be in order for this time of year.

5. Comparisons with Other Towns – to be continued

6. Economic Development Team Update

Mr. Dailey explained that the team is made up of 6 members: Jennifer Beck, Chair, Jackie Kahle, Christine Devine, Tina Smith, Dan Donovan as the Selectmen's representative and himself. They have discovered that there are 114 businesses in Town. They plan on personally visiting 90 of them and to follow up on the phone with the rest of them. They are working with the UNH Cooperative Extension Service to conduct surveys of the business people in town. They are going to visit with the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Main Street etc. to get the word out. They are hoping to make a presentation at Town Meeting next year. They will also be asking the Budget Committee for a small amount of money for mailings, printings etc. The committee is coming together frequently to get all of the work done and evaluated the evidence based upon facts and then to come to decisions as quickly as possible.

7. Other Business

Due to other commitments, Ms. Tuomala will be stepping down as Committee Secretary. Since this is one of the very few unpaid positions and due to the large volume of work required, the decision was agreed to be made a paid position by the Selectmen. There is already monies in the Town Hall budget to do this. Selectmen's Assistant Caitlin Martin will be helping to compile the 2017 Budget figures.

8. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on October 20, 2016 at 7:00 at the Wilton Fire Station.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Dailey and seconded by Mr. Davidson; all in favor. The Budget Committee was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Tuomala, Secretary