

ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

AUGUST 10, 2016

Members Present: Ruell, Hoerter, Lamos, Badger, Coleman, Downing
Lyford (alternate)

Member Excused: Ryan

Others Present: Patsy Tucker, Steve Heath, Tony Randall

The meeting began at around 6:30 p.m. in the Ashland School Library.

Mid Year Budget Review

Town Clerk-Tax Collector Tucker reviewed the budget lines related to her work. She noted, among other things, that Advertising costs have increased significantly, so those lines are being overspent. There were questions about the allocation of the salary and longevity lines for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, which she will research.

Fire Chief Heath reviewed the Ambulance and Fire Department budgets. Among the items noted were the unexpected increase in Electricity costs, the upcoming equipment tests under Equipment Maintenance, the Vehicle Maintenance needs, the purchase of ink cartridges that exhausted the Printing line, the need for shots for the EMTs, the new CPU under Equipment, the payment of Mutual Aid Dues for the year, the replacement of worn out Forestry Equipment and the upcoming upgrade of the vehicle exhaust collection system under Buildings and Grounds.

Police Chief Randall reviewed the Police and Police Detail budgets. Among the items noted were the high use of Overtime pay because of short staffing, the expected increase in Part Time pay when the new part time officer goes to the Academy, the purchase of two computers under Computer System, the expected arrival of the new police cruiser in October, Uniforms needed by the new officers, and the use of most of the Training line. The Chief used the Special Programs line to pay for advertising for new police

officers, as he had no other line in which to place the expense. It was suggested that in future budgets he add a General Expenses line for such miscellaneous and unexpected costs, as other departments now use.

Information Requests Selectmen Lamos was asked to obtain more information on the different costs for Telephone in different departments, the revenues for the HEAL Grant, how the Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector salary increases were added back into the budget, and how many hours that Deputy has worked to date. The consensus was to ask the Town Trustees how much money there now is in the various Capital Reserve Funds.

Next Meeting The consensus was to move the August 17 meeting to the air conditioned Fire Station meeting room if that is available.

Recording Meetings On a motion by Downing, seconded by Hoerter, it was voted unanimously to record all meetings with the Committee's recorder and to not delete the recording for a meeting until the minutes for that meeting have been approved. There was discussion of the rights of individuals to record public meetings and whether those present have to be notified of that recording.

Minutes On a motion by Coleman, seconded by Badger, it was voted 4 to 1 with 1 abstention, to approve the minutes for the May 11 meeting with the addition of the word "extensive" in the following sentence " After extensive discussion, Toth withdrew his request for the position." On a motion by Hoerter, seconded by Downing, it was voted to approve the minutes for July 20.

Hoerter expressed her concern about the late delivery of the correct budget report.

On a motion by Hoerter, seconded by Downing, it was voted to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

David Ruell, Chairman