

Town of Atkinson
 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
 October 30, 2007

Attending: Jim Blackadar – Chairman, Dave Paquette - Vice Chairman, Paul Tracy, Mari Anne Princiotta (via telecom), Fred Thompson, and Fred Childs ex officio

Jim called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. The first order of business was to discuss the date for the public hearing. Jim informed the board that he'd discussed the matter with both the Town Administrator and a representative from DRA. Both informed him that since we are under Senate Bill 2, the last date we can have our public hearing is January 15, 2008. As long as the public hearing is set 25 days before the Town Meeting, we are not in conflict of RSA 32:5. The Town meeting (election) will be in March 2008. The Deliberative session has no bearing since it is to establish the ballot for Town Meeting. The Board will review Senate Bill 2 for further clarification.

Fred T. motioned to set the Public Hearing for January 15, 2008/Seconded by Dave/Unanimous 6-0.

The Board then reviewed the minutes from the October 23, 2007 meeting.

Fred T. motioned to accept the October 23, 2007 minutes as presented/Seconded by Dave/Unanimous (5-0) Paul abstained.

Mike Murphy, Fire Chief, presented the Fire Department, Homeland Security, and Dispatch budgets as follows:

	2007	2008	\$ Delta	% Delta	Notes
Ambulance Contract	-	1	1	-	1
Fire Admin	167,753	187,669	19,916	11.9%	2
Fire Fighting	72,100	57,100	(15,000)	-20.8%	3
Fire Prevention & Inspections	21,200	15,600	(5,600)	-26.4%	4
Training	1,500	1,500	-	0.0%	
Communications	69,392	69,392	-	0.0%	5
Medical Services	<u>7,000</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	
Total Fire Department	338,945	338,262	(683)	-0.2%	
Homeland Security	150	150	-	0%	
Dispatch	31,500	31,500	-	0%	6

Notes:

1. The Chief informed us that having the ambulance company in-house is working great and. Because we are providing free rent to them, they have waived the annual stipend we paid them in the past. The Chief would like to add \$1 to the line in the event something happens and we need to move funds.
2. Primary increase is due to an increase in calls experienced so far in 2007. The on-call pay for the first half of the year is \$50K. The chief doubled that amount and added a 3% COLA to arrive at the proposed \$103K. In addition, the Chiefs line has been increased for additional hours and COLA. Heat and Electricity have increased due to rates and the additional usage of the Station by the ambulance company.
3. The \$15K reduction is due to a decrease in Truck Maintenance since the Engine 1 refurbishment is completed.
4. Building is down in town which reduces the need for Fire Inspectors. The Chief did add in extra to cover the Library.
5. Last year of the lease payment on the truck
6. Last year of contract with Plaistow.

The Chief is planning on submitting 2 warrant articles. The first one is to purchase a new ambulance (\$170,000). The Chief feels this number will be less with competitive bidding. It will be funded from the capital reserve account which currently has a balance of \$186,023. The plan is to keep the old ambulance as a heavy equipment rescue vehicle. The second warrant article will be for \$60,000 to be added to the capital reserve. The next vehicle to be replaced is the pumper in 2012 at an anticipated cost of \$500K.

Noriko Yoshida-Travers and Patti Mangini presented the Recreation, Community Center and Memorial Day budgets as follows

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>\$ Delta</u>	<u>% Delta</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Recreation	78,163	81,669	3,506	4.5%	1
Community Center	44,782	45,721	939	2.1%	2
Memorial Day	2,100	2,100	-	0.0%	3
Flags	1,000	1,000	-	0.0%	
Total Culture & Recreation	<u>126,045</u>	<u>130,490</u>	<u>4,445</u>	<u>3.5%</u>	

Notes:

1. Increase is due to the 3% COLA and an increase in the minimum wage.
2. Increase is due to 3% COLA and an increase in Electricity, Heat, Gas and Water.
3. Level funded. But may decrease if the parade is moved to 10:00 we won't be required to feed the bands.

Patti informed the Board that she plans on submitting one warrant article for \$25K for the capital reserve.

Jim discussed with the Board a plan to provide a memo to citizens who submit a petition warrant article involving the appropriation of funds inviting them to attend our meeting on January 10, 2008 to go over their warrant article. The Board agreed and Jim will draft an initial memo for review.

Fred Childs informed the Board that the Health insurance increase is 10% and that the Selectmen are looking into soliciting other health care providers. Jim asked Dave to update the spreadsheet with the 10 percent increase.

Jim informed the Board that there will be no meeting next week and that the Library and Town Clerk will present their budgets at the next meeting scheduled for November 13, 2008.

Fred T. motioned to adjourn the meeting/Seconded by Dave/Unanimous (6-0). Jim adjourned the meeting at 8:17.

Respectively submitted,
kjb