

Town of Atkinson
Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2010

Attending: Jim Blackadar – Chairman, Dave Paquette, Valerie Tobin, Fred Thompson,
Bill Bennett ex-officio

Jim called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. The Board reviewed the January 5, 2010 minutes.

Dave motioned to accept the minutes as presented/Seconded by Fred/Unanimous 4-0

The Police Chief (Phil Consentino) provided information to the Board based on questions previously submitted for both the Police Dept & Elderly Affairs. He informed the Board that in 2008 EA provided 1,194 transports and in 2009 2,246. He was unable to provide the number of residents utilizing the service, but will work to get that information. He further stated that he had discussed with Town Council that there is a sensitivity issue in providing the names of the individuals. He also stated that a trip out and then right back is 1 trip. If there is a drop off, and then a pickup it is counted as 2 trips.

He informed the Board that he estimates that the police department drives 150,000 miles a year on all vehicles combined. He stated that the Legal line did include the costs for Advertising new positions and has some funds for Town Council. The Chief stated that the dues and subscription line includes the cost of record searches, dues for the Pastor amongst other Police related items. Bill also stated that we have to assist in the utilities for the Plaistow Court as part of the effort to keep it open. He believes those costs are in this line.

The Chief stated that Training Supplies include the cost of Instructors, live classes and materials as well as ammunition. He stated that his postage line includes certified mail and that do to the proximity of the Police Station they do not use the postage meter at Town Hall.

Both the Police Chief and Fire Chief (Mike Murphy) provided the Board an overview of the dispatch situation. They both stated that the Town was not happy using Rockingham County and that utilizing Plaistow provides a much better service. They also stated that it isn't a free service and that there are costs associated with the service. The original contract with Plaistow equaled the cost of using Rockingham County. They also stated that there is waiting list to use the dispatch services.

The Board briefly reviewed the submitted warrant articles. Jim stated that the plan will be to make the Board's decision whether to Recommend or Not Recommend on Thursday evening. Several Department Heads came in to discuss some of the warrant articles as follows:

Todd Barbera (Tech Committee) – Todd spoke to 2 warrant articles (\$10,000 for streaming video on the website) and (\$18,000 to build the new cable studio). Both warrants will be funded from the capital reserve. Todd stated the streaming equipment is needed so that the meetings can be posted on the web. He also stated that the website is being revamped. Bill and Todd will provide the support to the estimated costs.

Patty Mangini (Recreation Committee) – Patty provided information on the 2 of the 3 recreation warrants. The first one is for \$25,000 capital reserve for the purpose of funding future recreation needs. Patty stated there is about \$3,000 left in the current capital reserve. The second warrant in the amount of \$80,000 will complete the East Road fields. The majority of the costs are related to drilling a well, holding tank and irrigation installation. The remaining funds will complete the walking paths, parking lot and plants. Patty mentioned that a citizen will be donating a significant amount to this project and the amount should go down.

Bill stated he would provide the current Mosquito Control contract.

The Road Agent (Ted Stewart), informed the Board that the care of grounds contract has been awarded and that the budget will need to be revised. Dave stated he'd make that update.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2010 at 7:00 PM to discuss the Warrant Articles.

Fred motioned to adjourn the meeting/Seconded by Bill/Unanimous 5-0. Jim adjourned the meeting at 9:38 PM.

Respectively submitted,
kjb