

Special Budget Meeting
November 16, 2015

Station Four:

Chairman Hitchcock spoke with the attorney regarding negotiating directly with the lowest bidder on the value engineering items and reducing the price \$100,000 - \$110,000. The architect will give the list to the low bidder and have them return to present their offer.

The Budget:

At this reading, Chairman Hitchcock stated there is a deficiency of \$734,000. Chairman Hitchcock also pointed out \$750,000 in capital will be spent on Station Four and the vehicles.

Chairman Hitchcock feels the two percent increase is affordable given the hiring of more personnel in 2016. George Oldroyd asked for the amount in account 914 at the last budget meeting. Kay Benton gave the figure of \$1,729,000. Chief Knight explained how the budgeted salaries compare with salaries of fire departments in the surrounding areas. The amount of the increase in salaries was discussed. Also discussed was the evaluation of starting salaries. George Oldroyd asked to look at the entire salary structure, and how many people are needed at each classification.

Moe Wells discussed how he took a conservative approach in forecasting needs into 2017 and 2018. He estimated, with a two percent increase in growth, the deficit in 2017 as \$268,000 and the deficit in 2018 as \$182,000. George Oldroyd pointed out that a forty percent increase will be seen due to the millage increase, and that he understood the conservative approach, but felt there would be more money coming in than what has been estimated.

Chief Knight had given a schedule of vehicles he would like to see purchased over the next several years. That list was read, and how those purchases will affect the budget in the coming years was discussed. George Oldroyd expressed his concern that a larger increase in salaries should happen first, and more money could be requested from the public in the future for the purchase of new vehicles. Booty Shelley pointed out that the new health insurance package was not being discussed, and that it should be looked at as a part of the big picture.

Chairman Hitchcock remarked on the \$100,000 in overtime, and asked Chief Knight for his thoughts on reducing this number. Chief Knight said reducing the minimum staffing number would reduce the amount of overtime needed, but pointed out that the department was credited at the last ISO rating for its current staffing levels. He felt the addition of new staff at Station Four will help with the overtime requirements. He also pointed out that while maintaining a low ISO rating should not be a driving factor, it will help the district when asking the public for an increase in the future. Kay Benton asked to see a benefits comparison in addition to salaries.

Chairman Hitchcock asked Chief Knight about the purchase of two new vehicles. Chief Knight would like to buy a new car for the EMS Supervisor and use the supervisor's current vehicle to replace the Blazer. The Chief felt that the EMS vehicle could be cut for next year's budget.

Chief Knight presented a spreadsheet showing the health insurance breakdown by employee, showing the employer paid premiums. He requested the department pick up the employee portion of the premium for personnel electing employee only coverage.

Uniform expense was discussed; the amount for the 2016 budget is \$31,000. How the uniforms are purchased was described. An account is set up for each person, with a \$450 limit for full time personnel and \$250 for part time personnel.

In response to an inquiry from the last meeting, Chief Knight provided a number of cell phones and iPads including in Telephone Expense. The department currently pays for six cell phones and four iPads. On the EMS side, there are four cell phones, one iPad, and one jetpack.

Kay Benton would like to see an adjustment in the Capital Expenses. She would like to look at stretching out the debt and reducing the annual expense.

Chief Knight announced the annual Christmas Party: December 5th at 6:00 p.m.

Kay Benton made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Moe Wells. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved on 12-14-15



Al Hitchcock, Chairman