

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
DECEMBER 1, 2020  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** David Lage Chairman; John Veaser, Shawn Talbot  
Town Administrator Scott Butcher  
Police Chief, Tim Carpenter

**Communications Budget Review:**

At 6:00 pm Chairman Lage initiated the discussion on the Communications Budget Review. He noted there was a 5% increase from Southwest (Fire/EMS), and that it was 10% over the last 2 years. Chief Carpenter noted no one else is in the geographical area that would work for them. He has looked at other vendors but they don't have the equipment, staffing, etc that the town would need. He also noted we don't activate Code Red that is done statewide. We can activate locally if needed.

**Police Department & Animal Control Budget Review:**

Chairman Lage asked Chief Carpenter if he had recommendations regarding his budget, Chief Carpenter noted that he had sent an email with his input and suggested that it is a meeting in itself, and asked the Selectmen to review the details in the email. The Chief noted that his budget overall has gone up, while the full time salary line item has gone down, this is due to the reduction in staff from 6 to 4. There was also discussion regarding the need to send the new recruits to the academy and for training. Due to COVID 19 the recruits are not staying overnight, and instead are required to drive back and forth creating a mileage expense and other budget uncertainties. He has two candidates that he hopes to start at the academy in March. Further discussion on this budget will follow next week (Dec 8, 2020)

**Emergency Management Budget Review:**

Jessica presented the justification for her budget items online. Noted there were increases that hadn't been tackled in a few years, and inflation contributed to the increases for the most part. Personnel was the biggest increase, this was because there was an idea of having a local Deputy. Looking at the tasks on the presentation, Dave mentioned isn't this what the EMD was hired for? Further discussion on what the two roles would do and if a true need for deputy. It was discussed that it would allow for fast response and get 'boots on the ground' immediately and also be an extra set of hands during emergency, and allow for smooth transfer to the EMD. John V mentioned not opposed to the Deputy position but perhaps \$2500 is a bit too much. Dave suggested to come down to \$1.250. Another part of the Deputy would be the cost of a laptop. Scott suggested that it is not a good idea to go for a cheaper device, because of the job they would need power, high processor speed and a lot of storage, because you don't want it to underperform in an emergency situation. Dave asked her to provide criteria for what is needed in a device. John suggested using OneDrive but it was noted that only will work if you have internet access

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Lage discussed the Eversource energy audit. They cover 50% of the cost to do the audit, it would apply to the Fire, DPW/Green Center, and Town Office. Fifty percent is \$2,580, that would be our cost. It was questioned if we have the budget. John suggested we do it in this cycle.

Selectman Veesser MOTIONED to do this. Selectman Talbot SECONDED the motion.

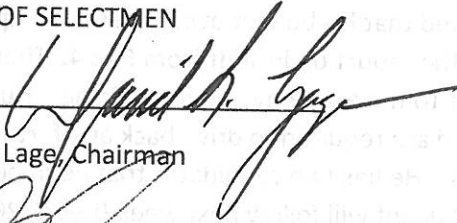
John asked if anything from last week he should know about the budget.

Shawn mentioned taking a look at the emergency plans to see what is in there.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Mallett, Land Admin

Minutes approved by:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

  
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David S. Lage, Chairman

  
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John Veesser

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Shawn Talbot