

R I C H M O N D S E L E C T B O A R D
S P E C I A L M E E T I N G
F Y 2 0 1 7 B U D G E T
O c t o b e r 1 5 , 2 0 1 5 M I N U T E S

Members Present: David Sander; Bard Hill; Taylor Yeates; Lincoln Bressor

Absent: Ellen Kane

Others Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager; Peter Gosselin, Highway Foreman; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Dennis Gile, Deputy Fire Chief; Connie Doherty, Finance Assistance; Rebecca Mueller, Librarian; Keith Franz; Library Treasurer; Kristen Hayden West, Library Trustee; Alan Buck, Chief of Police; and the meeting was not video taped.

David Sander called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Welcome and Public Comment

Mr. Sander explained that this was a special budget meeting with Department Heads. Mr. Sander asked for any comments from the public, but there were none.

2. Budget Discussions with Departments

Fire Department

Dennis Gile reported that he was just reviewing the budget, since Fire Chief Tom Levesque recently passed away. He noted that the new truck was coming soon, and they were continuing their air pack replacement schedule. The fire station needed a lot of work, including safety improvements and repairs. The bathroom and meeting room needed renovation and the building didn't meet many codes. The roll up doors needed safety stops and man-doors, diesel ventilation was needed and new lighting. New turnout gear was needed and some support staff.

Library

Keith Franz noted that there was an increase in library maintenance and that the building has needed quite a bit of repair, and the library staff didn't feel qualified to identify and plan for these repairs or maintenance. He brought up the idea of a shared facilities director that could handle these items. The Selectboard discussed the idea of a facilities director, or contractor, and how that might be utilized across all departments.

There was some discussion on the increased budget lines for books and capital reserve for the Library.

Police

Chief Alan Buck talked about the police budget, and noted that starting salaries were hurting recruitment and retention. He said we were the lowest hiring agency in the county, and the Selectboard requested some salary information from other towns. Included in the salary budget was a higher starting salary. The Manager noted that the School Resource Officer was taking time away from patrol, and the Chief had been utilizing part-timers to try and fill the gaps. He said that the Selectboard needed to understand the staffing challenges going on in the Police Department.

1 The Chief noted that the video cameras were in place, however, they would need to be replaced on a
2 regular schedule otherwise we'd be replacing them all at once, again. The also wanted to put in
3 \$38,000 for the replacement cruiser which would include all outfitting and equipment. The current
4 vehicles will be Ford SUV's and cost \$29,000 to purchase but the equipment and outfitting were more
5 than the \$2,000 regularly allotted.

6
7 Chief Buck also said he wanted to purchase tazers. They were a more effective defense weapon than
8 the pepper spray, which tended to affect officers and require time consuming cleanup of cruisers and
9 other areas.

10 Highway

11
12 Peter Gosselin went through his capital plans first, and noted that the park mower needed to be
13 replaced and the Foreman's pickup was on the 4-year schedule, to be replaced. He updated some other
14 items that were in the plan, but not due next year.

15
16 Mr. Gosselin explained that the stormwater pipe on Bridge Street between the railroad and four
17 corners was rotted and collapsing and needed to be replaced as soon as possible. He was checking out
18 pricing to line the pipe and also a trench-excavation/replacement. He felt such a project may be
19 \$50,000 and was not grant-eligible due to the size of the pipe (too small).

20
21 He also said salaries were low, and wanted to see a 4% increase. His department had some of the
22 lowest paid employees in town and felt that Huntington and Hinesburg were both hiring new
23 employees above our current pay for three employees. The Selectboard requested some information
24 on this.

25 Administration/Planning & Zoning

26
27 The Manager explained that there were no significant changes to Administration, beyond a large
28 increase in insurance. He felt that rates had been steadily increasing since Irene and we were playing
29 catch-up on the rates. The Clerk was requesting money for records scanning, but didn't have a cost
30 associated with it yet.

31
32 For Planning and Zoning and Assessors budgets, there were no significant changes.

33
34 The Selectboard continued to discuss budget requests, and wanted to know where on East Main did
35 storm water get directed to, and whether we needed to treat storm water or not.

36 3. Adjourn

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38
39 Motion by Mr. Yeates to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Bressor. So voted.
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