

Town of Seymour
Board of Finance

Minutes

Budget Deliberations
Monday, February 25, 2019 at 7:00pm
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Kristyn Hanewicz, Beverly Kennedy, Bill Sawicki, John Stelma and Kwame Dunbar (alternate)

Members Absent: Jim Cretella, Rich Demko, Heather McDaniel, Gary Popielasz (alternate)

Others Present: Chris Edwards, Michael Lombardi, Mike Assunto, Al Rochelle, David Van Wart, Alyssa Downs, George Junko, Todd Andrews, Matt Calzone, John Hannon, Tom Eighme

Item #1 – Call Meeting to order

Chairman Bill Sawicki called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Item #2 – Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the Flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #3 – Public Comment

None

Item #4 – Deliberation & Discussion of 2018/2019 Budget

Discussion of Fire Department budget by Chief Michael Lombardi:

Things we have accomplished in 2018:

- # of calls increased by 10%; # of fires and # of motor vehicle accidents increased.
- Currently have 122 firefighters on the roster
- We have replaced Engine 13 with a demo
- We have upgraded Marine 20 and Utility 10 (currently 12 years old)
- Upgraded the apparatus light packages to LED
- Put new roof on the Citizens Engine Co
- We are 95% complete with air cylinders program – need just 5 this year
- The Spotted Dog Program (for accountability) is up and running 100%
- Put in a new phone system
- Replaced exterior lights on both firehouses and put them on timers
- Put heated tape on gutters on both firehouses to help with the rain & ice

Budget:

- 101 – Salaries Chiefs – 1 Chief (\$3,000) & 3 Assistants (\$2,000) – for the past 6 years have been denied salary – the chiefs have had no clerk for 2 years, so they assume many of the day to day tasks; insurance company calls & information, reporting input to software system, state reporting, town meetings & planning. We are the only town valley that does not have a stipend.
- 105 – Salaries – 2 Engineers, 4 Assistant Engineers – have not had an increase since 2005; responsible for checking apparatus, equipment, tools, importing information into software.

- 120 – Clerk – has been zeroed out – no clerk for over 2 years – assistants have assumed the duties
- 125 – Secretary Fees – for the Board of Fire Commissions and Board of Chiefs meetings
- 220 – Social Security – information is given by the Town
- 340 – Purchased Professional Services – stayed the same- used for physicals and other medical testing necessary – everyone over 40 must have a physical every year – we do have 122 firefighters on the roster.
- 350 – Education – increased \$400 – the State Fire Academy has increased the training for Firefighter 1 to \$1,200 + \$100 book, Firefighter 2 is \$1,000. All our firefighters are Firefighter 1's.
- 430 – Repairs & Maintenance – hope that nothing big happens every year; our fleet is aging; ladder truck we put \$20,000 into repairs (2005 truck).
- 530 – Communications & Telephone – went down
- 580 – Travel - same
- 610 – General Supplies – for cleaning supplies for both firehouses – increased a little due to cost of supplies
- 615 – Clothing – same
- 622 – Electricity – same – from the Town
- 624 – Heating Fuel – from the Town
- 626 – Gasoline & Diesel – from the Town – for apparatus & chiefs' vehicles
- 720 – Building Improvements – \$10,000 increase – year ago had a clogged drain at Great Hill in kitchen area – projected repair budget was over \$25,000 – Tony Caserta set aside \$20,000 in Capital – still need to repair the floor once complete; electrical issues at Citizens were resolved. We try to take care of as many of the issues as possible out of our budget – have replaced vent fans, electrical issues, replaced toilets.
- 740 – Equipment Capital – includes the \$41,114 for yearly replacement of the radios
- 743 – Machinery & Equipment (OSHA) – same – all of testing required by OSHA to keep apparatus current and safe
- 745 – Machinery & Equipment (Non-Capital) – equipment that is put on the trucks – increase of \$2,000 – most things at 10 years need to be replaced; thermal imaging cameras need to be replaced – some are 12 years old – budgeted for 2 this year – after a certain point they can't be repaired.

Radios:

- The radios are different brands and types and aging; missing knobs, missing antennas; currently reception is very bad. Mike Lombardi played audio at a fatal fire that showed how poor the communication currently is; down at least 4 radios out of 70. Have only 2 good radios.
- Difference between "Mobile" vs "Portables" – the mobile stays on the truck; portables are carried by the chiefs & firemen (dual frequencies).
- Lease package – best option though expensive – can put a plan in place to replace after that. Cost of this would be \$518,695.53. The per year cost varies depending on the term: 3,4, or 5 years. For 5 years, the payment is \$118,385.08 and starts one year after the lease is signed. This lease would cover 95 portables, 10 radios.
 APX6000 (71) = \$300,000 APX4000 (20) – Fire Police (not in a fire) APX8000 (4)
 Because we are buying in bulk, there is a discount as opposed to buying 10 at a time.
 With the lease includes the labor for the installation.
 These new phones have a shelf life of 10-15 years
 These new phones are 5 Watts vs. the current 3 Watt.

This company (Norcom) knows our towers, the Police Department uses them, and they are good for consistency

- Purchase – if we purchase just a few at a time, they are more expensive (less of a discount) and we will still have the same problem with connectivity. This does not include the mobile or other phones necessary – just the APX6000's.
- Camera will be replaced out of the operating budget \$7,000 cost
- The Capital Plan includes \$41,114 (covers 10 portables) allocation for the radios. There were many items that were taken care of in the operational budget.
- The new portable and mobile radios are compatible with the radios from the Police Department and Ambulance. Can use interchangeably with their radios.
- Mike Assunto from Norcom was at the meeting to answer any questions.
- It is very important to have the APX8000 dual band portables (for the chiefs), and remote heads (which are used to set up command centers at a scene.
- We are using Mutual Aid and Taskforce/Strikeforce Agreements with neighboring towns to assist when needed. Currently our radios are not able to communicate. These new radios are needed for this.
- Mike Lombardi said he had put together a 15-year Apparatus Replacement Plan and had given this to Kurt Miller
Apparatus should be at 20 years old or less.
- Bill Sawicki asked the Department to put together a list of : NEEDS - PRIORITIES - COST – so that we can plan the best for the future.
- 14.7 miles SEYMOUR
- Tanker 19 – 1994 Peterbilt – carries 3,000 gallons of water – tank is starting to leak – need to remove the tank and put in a newer tank. Last year had the tank patched the leaks to “band aid” the problem. Because we won't need to buy the truck, just the tank – should cost only about \$150,000.
- In the coming years – need to replace the ladder truck – cost is about \$1.5million.
- The idea of repairing the current phones has been tried by the chiefs. Many times it is necessary to ship the units back to China – costs about \$900 – this means we are without that radio for 3 months.

If we can get something by March/April with all the details, we can plan for possible bonds/financing.

Item #5– Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Submitted by:

Monica Dimon
Recording Secretary

