

Budget Committee Minutes  
10/21/2004

Members Present: Dick Hickok, Sue Greene, Phyllis Corrigan, Bill Phillips, Diana Goodhue, Sean Murphy, Connie Grant, Bob Brent, Dennis Doten, John O'Brien, Don Sibson, Derek Tomlinson

Members Absent:

After the pledge of allegiance, the minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and a motion made to approve them. (SM/CG/9-0) The Chairman asked if the membership had any concerns about the format of the minutes and specifically if they were too brief, although there is a tape recording as backup. No one had any comment.

Dick Hickok started to review the Executive Department working group summary sheet. Bill Phillips questioned the 10 towns used for comparison and requested additional backup information. There was some concern that MRI used different towns. Other topics discussed were rates of turnover, recruitment efforts, and the purpose of revisiting the issue of wages & performance annually. It was concluded that Bill & Bob Brent get together to submit a request for information so that all of their questions can be answered.

The Selectmen's representative was asked how much of the MRI report will be implemented.

After more debate about the performance evaluation process, wages, and benefits it was decided that the Committee will vote all of the budgets with the wage #'s that are in the budget and they will have the opportunity to review prior to the public hearing.

The expansion of the p/t position in the Finance Department was questioned and discussed. A motion was made & affirmed to recommend \$429046. (SM/DT/11-0)

Areas of discussion about the appraisal budget included the need for another f/t position and pros and cons of a contracted service –vs- more of our own employees. This budget was recommended as requested. (DT/SM/7-4)

The Legal budget was recommended as requested. (DT/DG/11-0)

The Debt Service budget was recommended as requested. (SM/DT/11-0)

The Patriotic Purposes budget was recommended as requested. (DT/CG/11-0)

The Welfare budget was recommended as requested. (SM/DT/11-0)

A motion was made & affirmed to reduce the Cemeteries budget to \$4400. (PC/SG/10-1)

The Insurance budget was recommended as requested. (DT/SM/11-0)

During the Police review the cruiser rotation program and the K-9 program were discussed. Ultimately the police budget was recommended as presented by the Selectmen.  
(DS/DT/10-1)

The Fire Department Working Group reviewed their summary sheet. There were questions regarding the paramedic training program, revenues, and how often we rely on other towns.

The Committee requested information on what % of merit increase each employee received by department.

The 11/11 meeting was changed to 11/9.

The next meeting is 10/28 at 6:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Shackett, Finance Director