



**Selectmen's Workshop
Tuesday, November 22, 2022
9:00 am**

Board: R. Gil Rand, Charyl Reardon, Scott Rice

Staff: Judy Welch, Cathy Riley, Kevin Millar

In-Person Public: Ken Chapman, Tom Sabourn, Jane Durning, John Mackay, Dave Tauber, John Bouffard, Faith Desjardins

Call Order

Charyl called to order at 8:58 am

Budgets:

Linwood Ambulance

Charyl brought up the proposed ambulance budget request for 2023, noted the increase in the budget, and asked Chief Tauber to speak to it.

Chief Tauber explained that they had not requested an increase in over five years. He added that increases are due to the economy, inflation, and expenses due to Covid.

Chief Tauber stated that the rolling stock is valuable, but the most valuable asset is personnel. Chief Tauber added that the ambulance has received several grants; however, they have stipulations that restrict the monies from being used for personnel.

Chief Tauber also added that the other big problem is that 50% of the calls from Woodstock do not generate any revenue, which becomes a significant expense. The volume of calls is going up, but only half are reimbursable.

He explained that there are fewer and fewer in-town volunteers, and people have to come from out of town due to a lack of housing.

Charyl asked whether there was a way to project ahead how to increment raises each year instead of every five years.

Chief Tauber said they would certainly look into doing that and are working on the budget for the following year.

Scott, along with Gil, added that he agreed it would be better to do a little bit each year rather than a more significant amount at once, although it is necessary.

Charyl thanked Chief Tauber and the ambulance crew for all that they did for the community.

Charyl motioned to accept the Lin-Wood Ambulance budget of \$125,000. Gil seconded the motion, and Scott abstained. The vote was affirmative.

Fire

Chief MacKay presented the proposed budget for the Fire Department for 2023.

Chief MacKay explained that he is requesting the increase in payroll is due pay increases and takes into account four new members, with 3 of those able to make every call. He claims he may be slightly over budget, but he is doing 13 months on the budget rather than 12 because it is quarterly. Chief MacKay noted the department averages between 125-150 calls for service a year.

Gil asked what the nature of the majority of the calls was.

John explained that there were a lot of accidents but also a lot of alarms.

Chief MacKay stated the operating, training, and new equipment line items stayed the same

Charyl asked about the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve line item and felt it should go up \$5000. John agreed that that would be a good idea. Three new members will need new gear, with the air packs increasing each year.

Chief MacKay asked the Board to consider securing the new fire truck due in 2024 in 2023. Chief MacKay explained that if he could order the tanker truck in 2023, the department would receive it in 2024; if he has to wait to order the tanker truck in 2024, they will not receive the truck until 2025, and the price would increase. Chief MacKay noted that there is a 10% -12% increase every year, so if we wait another year to order, we would be looking at paying another \$50,000.

Chief MacKay is currently working with Bull Dog Truck Company to determine when the chassis could be ready; hopeful to have within the year.

Scott asked Charyl where we were with the capital reserve on this, Charyl explained that the capital reserve is only used for the down payment and the remaining amount is financed.

Charyl asked when the last payment would be made.

Judy explained that the last payment would be appropriated in the 2024 budget and pointed out that there would need to be a warrant article in 2023 next March for this purchase.

Charyl asked John about the "retired" engine and whether it be moved to the lower firehouse. John said the plan is to keep it and house it at the lower firehouse, because it cannot cross the green bridge right now, so they leave a truck down there in case something happens on that side of the bridge. John noted that the tanker from 1988 would be given to Mike Welch to flush out culverts. It is still on the roster.

John suggested that we look at the leasing program with the company.

Charyl asked if we had ever leased a fire truck before, and John replied that he didn't think so.

Judy mentioned that John could only order a new fire truck with the passage of the warrant article.

Charyl stated that you can have a warrant article that commits the town to the truck, in 2023, with delivery in 2024, with payment in 2024.

Judy pointed out that we would be making payments on two fire trucks in 2021 and asked John to confirm that the company would be okay with that.

John found wording that explained that payments would not have to be paid for a year.

Charyl asked for clarification that if we commit in 2023, we could pay in 2024.

Judy says yes, but we can only place the order with the Warrant being voted on first.

The board agreed that they would look into the lease option.

Charyl motioned to the \$5000 increase to the budget to the capital reserve for fire equipment. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Charyl then motioned to place an article on this year's Warrant to authorize the purchase of a new tanker truck. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Police

Kevin presented the Police Budget, asking to keep the budget where it is at, but has been focused on recruitment. He worried about retention, due to other town offers and lack of housing. Some officers have to commute as far as Laconia and Meredith. He did look individually at each position and was looking at \$1-\$2 raises and factor that into payroll for the 2023 budget.

Charyl asked to clarification that the bottom line was showing at \$551,000.

Kevin explained that due to overtime, they were unsure where the numbers were. He and Judy looked at the overtime hours and they were on track to reach 2100 hours, but if he can maintain the officers that he has, but spread them out, he feels that they could actually save money.

Charyl stated that the 8% increases lines up the budget.

Charyl motioned to accept the Police Department budget as presented. Scot seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

A conversation was then had on the previous questions on the purchase of cruisers and lack of new cruisers available.

There was another conversation on the body cams and looking into a 50% grant for those; if a grant cannot be obtained, then the department would just have to just purchase them.

Emergency Management

Chief Kevin Millar presented the Emergency Management proposal to the Board.

Kevin informed the Board that the door on the emergency management vehicle needs to be replaced.

Charyl motioned to accept the emergency management budget at presented. Gil seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

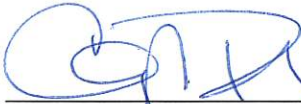
Adjournment

Charyl motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 am. and enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

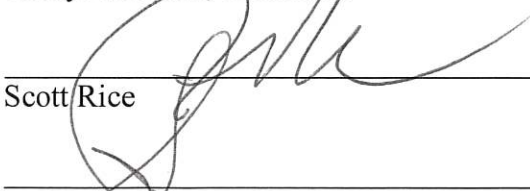
The public could participate remotely over Zoom by going to www.zoom.us, using the Zoom App on a cellphone, or on a **landline calling 1-646-558-8656 Password: 097660** and entering **Meeting ID: 853 5802 1076 Password: 097660**.

Those wishing to hear the recording of the whole meeting may access it by using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxMH7OFC8H3KqBhYHsBr53g>



Charyl Reardon, Chairman



Scott Rice



R. Gil Rand

November 29, 2022
Date