Final Meeting Minutes, November 29th, 2023

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

8:26 AM

Attendees: Lorri Hayes, John Arico, Frank Weber, Sean Mamone, Bill McKinney, Tim Berry, Sheila Sturm, Joan Cleary, Howard Brown, Kim Roberge- via Zoom

Absent: Leslie Formby, excused

Meeting called to order at: 6:30 pm

 Eileen Naber joined via Zoom

6:30 - 6:40: Opening public comments, no public comments

6:40 – 7:10: Interview Chief Slavin (Police Department)

Chief Slavin prepared a report. There were many questions that were asked. The report produced answers to all of the questions. The chief is seeking a 4.1% increase. There is a decrease in the equipment line items. There was a $12,000 grant money last year. There are several grants for body cameras and computers. DUI and speed grants are used to cover shifts. If the money is not used, it goes back to the town. The police department purchased a new cruiser, and it is great. There is a need for another car. There is a new hire in the administrative assistant position. She will be working 5 days per week. Health insurance is half of the total salary for full-time employees. The police will not request any big capital projects. The new tablets are much more functional than before and will last for 3 years. The chief was thanked for his report.

SM suggested we use the same report format for each group that planned to present to the budget committee.

7:10 - 7:20: Approval of minutes from November 15th corrections made. JA made a motion to accept SS seconded. Minutes approved. TB abstained.

7:20 - 7:40: Discussion of scheduling department head interviews. Will bring in the following:

* Town Clerk to answer questions regarding the voting machines and the cost of paying the police to be available for the election. TB said that the voting machines that were purchased were old and needs to be updated. SM asks questions about the reason we purchased a used voting machine. SM questions whether it was short sighted to buy an old machine. TB answers It was the only machine that the state of NH could use. TB says the machine is no longer supported. TB says we have to pay for a new machine. HB says there is a police detail that costs money. TB says updating voting machines is necessary in this whole state.
* The Library Trustees, SS says we should not bring the library to discuss the selectman’s budget separate from the warrant, rather to discuss its budget and warrant item for a new library at one meeting. TB says library salary line went up 9.04% instead of 4%. We need to get an answer to this question. KR has a question about the library retirement and other increases. JC retirement would be because the increases started in March and last year was not a full year’s number. JA Compile a list of questions for library trustees.  There was a spirited discussion regarding whether to bring in the library trustees to discuss the library trustee’s budget and revenue. There was a decision made to bring them in to discuss the selectboard’s budget. SS made it clear that the advisory budget committee has no authority over the library trustee’s budget. JA asks that everyone bring in questions for the library trustee by the next meeting.
* The Public Works department.

BM says we do not need to see the Fire Department prior to any warrant articles. All agreed.

SM wants to know who the emergency management director is, the answer is Jay Wilson.

HB has questions about forestry materials. JC says to buy it. KR asks when the select board will be going through the budget. HB says they did so last Monday. KR says if the select board goes through the budget like we are, they can answer many of the questions. KR says it is the select board’s budget. KR suggests the select board do a deep dive on the budget. HB says that they do ask many questions.

HB says the building inspector budgeted $1500 for training but has not had training. BM says that the building inspector should be trained and updated on building codes. BM believes there should be a discussion with the building inspector as to the reason he is not having any training.

TB has a question about the hazard mitigation update, $6,031.25. JC says it for the speed sign update and warranty on it. Last year they split the cost and this year JC says it is now in emergency management. JC also says Becky has a grant match for hazard mitigation update and we need to match the grant.

7:40 - 7:50: New business- None

7:50 - 8:00: Closing public comments- None

8:00: Meeting adjournment 7:36 pm

**Action Items:**

1. John Arico contact Peter Eckhoff at  peckhoff@sau39.org to ask if he plans to appoint a person to the committee.
2. John Arico will ask for the Public Works Department to come on December 13.
3. All- Bring questions regarding the library budget on December 13 and will submit to the library trustees after the December 13 meeting.
4. December 27, 2023 Meeting- Cancel?