

Meeting December 15th, 2021

Wednesday, December 15, 2021 9:25 AM

Agenda:

Call to order

Meeting called to order at 7:04

Attendance

Joe Conrad
Howard Brown
Paul Lavertu
Sean Mamone
John Arico
Laurie Brown

Police Department
Chief Mark Slavin
Sergeant Daigneault

Town Clerk
Belinda Yeaton

Members of the public:
Eileen Nabor

Opening Public Comments

No members of the public present

Police Department's Budget Review

Police department provided documents highlighting the budget increases.
Chief's budgeting goal was to keep the increases as low as possible.
Retirement went from 28% employee contribution to almost 34%.
Budget up \$20,000 over 2021 due to retirement increase
Also health insurance increase of 5.5 %
6% COLA increase
Historically, PD puts \$16,000 or \$17,000 into the budget for a cruiser every year and purchases a new cruiser every two years.
Updated number for the Ford Explorer is \$34,000.
Every year that a new car is purchased, there is an one-time upfitting charge of \$12,000.
Joe: How do you get rid of the old cruisers
Answer: We keep 4 cruisers. When we get rid of one, it goes to auction.
Cruiser 1 has 100,000 miles. Other cruiser has 98,000 miles. Other cruisers have about 50,000 miles each.
Radio will transfer to the new cruiser. Unfortunately much of the other equipment won't.
Goal is to have 4 full time and 4 part-time officers. Coverage has been extended.
Howard: Extra \$25,000...is that for details.
Answer: No that's for overtime itself.
Sean: Would it be doable to set up a revolving fund this year?

Answer: It could be looked into.

In 2020 Police brought in \$16,000; 2019 \$20,000, in 2018, it was \$10,000

Numbers not available for 2021.

Line for prosecution is for the Police Prosecutor contracted through Wilton PD. This prosecutor has eliminated the time that police officers need to be in court.

Compared to other towns, Mont Vernon is getting a very good deal.

Laurie: We haven't paid that this year. Why hasn't Wilton sent us a bill?

Chief can look into that.

Howard: Computer hardware line is down.

Answer: Last year we had to get a firewall and replace a down server. Those were one-time costs.

Also using a new service company this year.

Howard: How are we lined up for cameras

Looking into getting cameras for testing

Town Clerk's Budget Review

There are two line items that will increase: computer hardware and supplies, and convention and dues and fees went up a little bit

Next year there will be three elections

\$1200 for a new printer.

\$2,050 for a new router. The router is not secure.

Laurie will look into getting the town hall's router replaced this year. Belinda can also replace hers this year.

Only \$600 this year for conventions. Upping it to \$1000 for next year to complete certification.

We take in about \$800,000 on car registrations.

This year is more than last year.

Looking long term, there is nothing foreseen coming down the road.

Acceptance of Minutes from December 8th

Motion to accept: Paul

Seconded by Joe:

Minutes are accepted

Old Business:

Howard will have the SAU administrator itemize how much we are paying for plowing at each school.

Mont Vernon, the town plows and sands

Clark and Wilkins: town plows and sands

SAU Town plows and sands

Souhegan and AMS both outsource for plowing and the district sands.

Can video conferencing equipment be purchased by the end of 2021 if there is any money left?

If not can we look at grant money for this?

Still open

Fire department engine usage - still waiting on this information from the fire department

Eileen has information that the capitol reserve does not have to wait until the last payment. Eileen will forward to Laurie.

New Business

Schedule for remainder of the year

Will we meet on the 22nd?

No we won't meet on the 22nd.

We will meet on the 29th

Scheduled: Library and DPW

January 5th will be the Heritage Commission

Discussion of Selectmen's letter

The important point for the Budget Committee is that we must get our report to Laurie before January 17th.

Sean: There's a lot of federal money floating around. Would it make sense for the town to hire a part-time grants management person? Are we at a point where the return on investment would be worth it? The Rescue Plan has due dates to apply and money that comes in in multiple stages. It takes someone to manage this so we don't miss out on opportunities. What are other small towns doing?

COLA is 5.9%. All town employees are getting 6% raises.

Sean: How did we come up with 17% for the library building.

There was a discussion among the trustees as to what was an equitable amount for the town to pay.

Closing Public Comment Period

No members of the public present

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Joe

Second: Paul

Meeting adjourned at 8:23