

**BOARD OF FINANCE
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
40 OLD FARMS ROAD
WILLINGTON, CT 06279**

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 14, 2019
7:00 PM

**Minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting*

Members Present:

Mike Makuch, Vice Chairman
Bill Rankin – Alternate
Peter Tanaka
Barry Wallett
Fred Schoen
Laurie Semprebon

Members Absent:

Jim Bulick, Chairman
Randy Belair

Also Present:

Erika Wiecenski, First Selectwoman
Donna Latincsics, Business Manager
Tish Ignatowicz, Treasurer

Vice Chairman Mike Makuch called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

Peter Tanaka moved to seat Bill Rankin in place of Randy Belair. Laurie Semprebon seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (P. Tanaka, B. Wallett, L. Semprabon, F. Schoen, M.

Makuch, B. Rankin) 0 No.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Peter Tanaka moved to accept the BOF Meeting Minutes of February 7. Barry Walleth seconded the motion. Vote: Yes (P. Tanaka, B. Walleth, L. Semprabon, F. Schoen, M. Makuch) B. Rankin abstained.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

No one present to speak

NEW BUSINESS:

Emergency Services

0231

Fire Marshal Dick Palmer says that there is no increase in their request. He said they are anticipating a 2% salary increase if the Town approves it. Mike Makuch asked to clarify that the budget request is for no change in budget other than the salary. However, if the town approves the anticipated 2% increase for non-union employees, that would cause an increase in the budget of 2% of the salary portion of the budget. Fire Marshal Dick Palmer said that yes, this is true.

The Board of Finance thanks Dick Palmer.

0234

Emergency Management Director Stuart Cobb says that their budget remains unchanged.

In the past the generator maintenance was included in the Board of Education's budget. This year it is added in the 0234 budget. The increase will show in this budget but since the town was already paying for it, it doesn't change anything. Mike Makuch asked to clarify that there is infact an increase in this budget request, for generator maintenance. This may be independently coupled with a balancing decrease from another budget. Stuart Cobb and Erika Wiecenski agreed that this cost was previously held in another budget within the overall budget package.

0221 Ambulance Payroll

Fire Chief Alex Moore says that there is going to be a 2% increase in their budget. The increase is mainly paying for the 24/7 staff, they want to have at least 2 people on duty at all times. He is proposing to hold a fund in as a buffer because in the past they have had to take money out.

0232 Willington Fire Department #1

Fire Chief Alex Moore says that there's a 1.12% increase in the budget. All of the protective clothing is expiring and they need replacements. Normally at this time they would be replacing two sets but this time they are replacing four. All of the increases are on minor things such as medical equipment because the equipment itself is becoming more expensive. There is also an increase in electricity at the Fire Station which is due to an increase in the price of electricity. They switched their insurance to a plan that is the same but has better rates.

Fire Chief Alex Moore presents the idea to make Willington a heartsafe community by putting AEDs in every public building. He says that it has already been presented to the CIP and that it is being pushed out at least a year. He proposes to slowly fulfill this task over a few years.

Different brands of AEDs is not wanted because it can slow down the process for the EMTs to do their job because they would have to change the pads because they are different and therefore will not work the way they're supposed to. Barry Wallet believes that this is extremely important and that it should be moved into the priority for next years CIP process rather than waiting a few years. The AEDs should be submitted in someone's budget next year.

Willington Hill Fire Department

Fire Chief Tom Snyder presented his budget. He said unfortunately all the gear is expiring at once so there is going to be an increase in the budget. There is also going to be an increase for the fire truck. The truck is almost 30 years old and it's holding up pretty well, there is no body damage. But they are anticipating future problems to occur. That increase is for the maintenance of the truck.

There are also some issues in the building with the building. They are looking to do many repairs, including concrete repairs and the previously approved re-paving, but this is contingent on possible CIP funding longer term solutions such as station renovations or a new fire station.

The fire department asks that the BOF considers a request for bonding for fire station equipment.

Governor's budget is due to be presented February 20, 2019.

No new news has been reported.

OLD BUSINESS:

Not Discussed

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Mike Makuch wishes everyone a happy Valentine's day.

Peter Tanaka moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Mike Makuch seconded the motion. Vote Yes (P. Tanaka, B. Wallett, L. Semprabon, F. Schoen, M. Makuch, B. Rankin) 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,

Guinnevere Almquist, Recording Secretary