

## Hill Budget Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Nov. 20, 2019

**Present:** Tom Seymour (Selectman), Charlie Henry, Shelly Henry (School Board), Bill Wilson, Charlie Estes, Kristen Cunningham, Steve Yannuzzi, Paula McDonough, Denise Robie, Paul Meyerhoefer, Jerry Desrochers

**Absent:** None

**Public:** Andrew Williamson (Police Dept.)

### Meeting Business

Charlie Estes called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Minutes from 11/13/19 were distributed and reviewed. Bill made a motion to accept the minutes, Paul seconded, vote was unanimous (7 in favor, 4 abstained because they weren't in attendance at the mtg.)

### Old Business

Executive response to ques. from 11/13 mtg. minutes that can be answered at this time:

Payroll Taxes (4130) – are accrued and reported throughout the yr. They don't post until yrs. end b/c Quickbooks is used and it's more of a home-based software.

Telephone Services (4130) – A bill payment was sent to the incorrect address and then sent again to the correct address (right co., wrong location). Issue will be rectified Thurs. 11/21.

Govt. Bldg. (4194) – Security upgrades were made to the Executive Bldg. to limit accessibility to the bldg. due to concerns about employee safety. Most of this expenditure will be covered by a transfer of funds from the Capital Reserve Fund for bldg. improvement.

Tax Collector (4150) – Shelly will check #'s about postage overage w/Lisa.

Public Safety response to ques. from 11/13 mtg. minutes that can be answered at this time:

New Equipment (4210) – new computer system, software program that supports body cams, new vest Purchased with funds encumbered from last yr. Shows as an expense now and will be reversed at the end of the yr.

Office Supplies (4210) – should be \$980.00 not \$4,980.00 (typo in 11/13 mtg. minutes). Expense was for renovations made to improve office area and improve safety in office area and a closet. Steve asked if the overage could be covered by taking \$\$ out of the Capital Reserve Fund. Tom answered that it could. Steve suggested that Andrew ask the Selectmen if this could happen.

Offsetting Revenue Wages – Special Details (4210) – Not set up as a revolving fund. When the payment for the detail comes in, it goes back into the General Fund. When the officer gets paid the \$\$ comes out of the Police Dept. operating budget. Steve asked if Andrew was planning to write a warrant article to create a Revolving Fund. Andrew responded that he was.

Remaining ques. for Public Safety (4220 – Fire), Highway & Streets (4312 & Total 4319), Sanitation (4324 – Solid Waste Disposal) will be asked when the respective dept. heads present their proposed budgets.

### New Business – Review of Police Department's Proposed Budget

**Police** – Chief Andrew Williamson led the discussion.

Andrew discussed the depts. increase in call activity over the past 5 yrs. and also gave a comparison to the call activity for the police depts. in the neighboring towns of Danbury and Alexandria. Additionally he talked about the significant increase in arrests YTD 2019.

Andrew reviewed the depts. 2019 budget – YTD Actual vs. Full Yr. Estimate. Even though there were overages for office expenses and equipment expenses, he predicts that the dept. will be under budget for the yr. This is due to the fact that for the first half of the yr. the town only had the chief and one part-timer on the payroll.

He presented the depts. proposed 2020 budget which included an increase in coverage hrs. from 52 hrs./wk. to 72 hrs./wk. This increased coverage would come from 20 more part-time hrs./wk. The increase in coverage hrs. would also increase the depts. equipment expenses due to maintenance on the cruiser (repairs, gas, etc.). With this increase, the dept. would have the ability to have a local officer responding to calls and not having to wait for State Police to respond. The State Police is a great resource for the town, but local officers are more familiar with the residents and have a better connection to the community as a whole. In addition he talked about the need for a cell phone for the dept. and a mobile system for the cruiser.

Dee Ford (Fire Chief) couldn't make tonight's mtg. and will present her proposed budget at the 12/5 mtg. Dean Stevenson (Road Agent) was scheduled to present the Highway Depts. proposed budget but wasn't in attendance at tonight's mtg. Charlie Estes will check with him to reschedule.

**Next Mtg. 12/5 @7:00pm**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen Cunningham