

TOWN OF HILL
SELECTMEN'S WORKSHOP
December 14, 2021

Selectmen Present: Tom Seymour, Shaun Bresnahan, Christopher Gronski & Lisa Seymour
(Administrative Assistant)

Selectmen Absent: None

Public: David Croft, Ben LaRoche & Jamie Moulton

Thomas Seymour brought the meeting to order at 6:29 pm.

Board Business:

David Croft Sheriff Department

Sheriff David Croft met with the Board of Selectmen to introduce himself. Sheriff Croft has been in office for a year and is trying to meet with all of the towns in the Merrimack County. The county budget has no tax increase next year. Sheriff Croft started with the history behind the Sheriff Department and explained that the Sheriff's department is the law of the land and they are over the State Police and from there it flows down to the towns and local police departments. Croft stated that the Sheriff has full jurisdiction all over the State of NH. They currently have 70 individuals in the office. The Civil branch is very busy with serving papers in divorce cases, rent eviction notices and working with secretary of the stat and working on reposing vehicles. The troubles with civil are people are on the streets after eviction and then they become welfare cases for many cities and towns. The transportation is big with the court closed however; they are starting to open up. They have seen between 700 – 720 transports over the state. The warrant unit sees anywhere from 4 to 400 daily cases and 60 to 80 of these are drug related. They have three people in the detective unit during the last six months there was 7 search warrants for cybercrimes dealing with children and the internet. Croft stated with more children doing online classes it has opened up the internet for more of the cybercrimes. The area that they could use help is in the dispatch area. Croft stated that they can go to Dunkin Donuts and make more money in some cases. The security circuit courts are doing three trials daily these cases can be just a simple assault or as complicate as homicide. Croft stated that they are looking for grants to help with special mental health illness in combination with drugs. Also looking into getting a dog to help comfort some of these more difficult cases. He stated that they are here to help the communities Monday through Saturday.

Hill and Salisbury are in need for these services. Salisbury budget committee contracted with State Police for an 8-hr. patrol service per week and these are done in a 4-hr. block.

Thomas Seymour asked if Chief Moulton has a call and he needs help who should he call? Sheriff Croft stated that he can call them if it's daytime and evening it would be State Police.

Christopher Gronski asked if legislation passed mandating the vaccine would he support it? Sheriff Croft said that he would not arrest someone for not wearing a mask. He feels that the vaccines are similar to a medical procedure and you have the choice.

Ben LaRoche Bristol Fire Chief

Chief LaRoche came in to discuss the increases to the 2022 Ambulance contract. Christopher Gronski asked if they had the nature of the call volume. What type of calls are they? Are they primarily elderly, medical or drug related? There is a mix of calls stated Ben LaRoche. Ben said the currently the formula for calculating cost is solely based on usage of the system. As a result of this fact the cost from year to year are subject to large swings, up and down. The department has looked

at many other EMS Systems and believe the best way to address this concern is by calculating a portion of the cost using population. Population is not a great indicator of how much a service will be used but does provide a logical and stable factor by which to stabilize costs. Beginning in 2022, the cost to each town will be developed using a blended computation. In 2022 the number is based 5% on the total population, and 95% on total calls in which at least one ambulance responded. Chief LaRoche stated that over the next several years this could increase to a goal of between 25 and 35% based on population, with the remainder based on usage.

It is estimated that Bristol can handle around 1,350 calls per year based on its current staffing, destinations, and off-duty staff availability. Chief LaRoche stated that they are at capacity and, not knowing how often they are going to be called for an ambulance, or the services offered at local hospitals, the only thing that can be done to increase capacity is to increase staffing. The goal of the strategic plan is to increase staff by 1 employee every 2 years. At the end of plan in 2026 there will be 3FF/EMS providers on 24/7, and one EMS provider on each day. This will allow for both ambulances to be staffed and available for a call volume that is trending to exceed 1,600 calls per year by that time. Chief LaRoche will provide the Board of Selectmen with information on the payor mix, EMS dispatch reasons and demographics of Hill.

Selectmen Budget Request

The board started preparing their 2022 budget. Christopher Gronski and Shaun Bresnahan started with the administrative wages. These are over budget because of the increase in meetings and them lasting late. There was a decrease in the Professional Services because we will not need the Zoom account for the Annual Meeting in 2022. The Treasurers Fees decreased \$100.00 due to lack of usage year over year. Town Clerk and Tax Collector has no changes. The Board of Selectmen asked Lisa Seymour to contact Terra Maps at Avitair for update pricing to have our maps current.

The cost of our insurances has increased from 2021 to 2022. Unemployment increased \$112.00, Workers Comp increased \$982.00 and Property & Liability increased \$1,631.00.

Planning and Zoning has a slight increase in advertising.

The Board of Selectmen approved the following encumbrances for the Fire Department.

Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to encumber \$1,800 to purchase rechargeable flashlights. Thomas Seymour seconded the motion. All in favor.

Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to encumber \$20,000 to purchase six sets of turnout gear this would include 6 pair of pants, 6 coats and 6 pair of boots. Christopher Gronski seconded the motion. All in favor.

Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to encumber \$2,000 for the purchase of four replacement pagers. Christopher Gronski seconded the motion. All in favor.

The Board of Selectmen are looking to contract the mowing in the village for 2022. They are also thinking this contract could encompass Cemetery mowing as well.

The Board of Selectmen are still finalizing the remaining departments and will have a proposed for the Budget Committee on December 22nd.

The Board discussed the Police Department and are planning to move forward with an admin position to help identify the needs and how to implement a plan to rebuild the department. Public hearing(s) will be used to gain resident input. The police cruiser will be located in the town in the town facility on Murray Hill – secured and under cover.

The Board of Selectmen will be scheduling a non-public meeting on December 28th at 6:00 pm to further this discussion regarding the hire of Police Department Administrator.

Thomas Seymour made a motion to enter Nonpublic Session at 10:30 pm seconded by Shaun Bresnahan. Motion passed unanimously. (RSA 91-A:3, II(c))

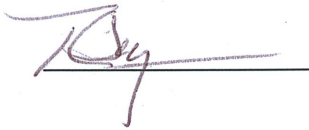
Christopher Gronski made a motion to leave nonpublic Session and return to public session at 10:45 pm seconded by Shaun Bresnahan. Motion passed unanimously. Motion made to seal the minutes passed unanimously.

With no further business to conduct, Shaun Bresnahan made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Christopher Gronski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously motion at 10:45 pm.

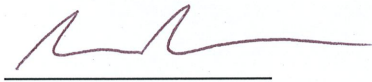
Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Seymour

Tom Seymour, Chair



Shaun Bresnahan



Christopher Gronski

