

Advisory Budget Committee

Minutes

November 22, 2022

This meeting was at the Barrington Town Hall with remote participation available.

Members Present: Steve Saunders (arrived at 4:45pm), Peter Royce, Michael Houst, and John Morris

Alternate Members Present: Bill Irving

Others Present: Conner MacIver, Dannen Mannschreck (Select Board liaison), Richard Walker (Fire Chief)

Peter Royce called the meeting to order at 4:35pm.

Peter Royce introduced Chief Walker and the Fire Department and Cemetery budgets.

Chief Walker explained that the Cemetery budget is level funded.

Cemetery records were audited and the CemSites program is working well.

The group discussed the Fire Department operating budget.

Michael Houst asked if the Fire Department was fully staffed. Chief Walker explained that the department still has one full time vacancy and one full time employee on deployment. Chief Walker explained that he is hopeful to be fully staffed starting in spring in 2023. Ultimately the Fire Chief explained that the mid-range plan (5-7 years) calls for eight full time employees in the Fire Department.

Bill Irving asked about the full time wages line and why an increase was requested when there is a surplus available in the 2022 budget. Chief Walker explained that the employee who is deployed is still budgeted at 100%. The Select Board authorized

Peter Royce asked if the deployed position is budgeted at the maximum health election. Conner MacIver explained that the position is budgeted at the health election the employee had prior to deployment. Peter Royce asked about the increase in overtime. Chief Walker explained that with 12 and 24 shifts create more expensive overtime expenditures.

The group had no more questions about the operating budget.

Peter Royce asked about the plans for the Ambulance Revolving Fund as it relates to truck replacements. Chief Walker explained that the revolving fund has enough money to replace an ambulance. Chief Walker shared that the early conversations have started to refurbish Engine 1 instead of a full blown replacement. A refurbish would extend the life approximately ten years.

John Morris appreciated the suggestion regarding the refurbishment. He recommended moving on that plan sooner based inflation and the availability in the fire truck replacement capital reserve. The

group agreed. Chief Walker will discuss the idea with the Select Board at the next meeting and plans to have more details in early January 2023.

The group discussed trade in vs. auctioning surplus equipment and vehicles.

The group thanked Chief Walker for his participation in the meeting.

The group discussed the next meetings. John Morris suggested that each member bring warrant article priorities to the 11/28 meeting.

Steve Saunders asked for revenue numbers for deliberation at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Conner MacIver.