

**Town of Seabrook  
Budget Committee  
Tuesday, November 28, 2023**

Members Present; Chris Leclaire, Jim Diburro, Ed David, Steve Mower, Barbara Mower, Justin Packard, Harold Eaton, Kelli Hueber and Mike O'Connor

Chairman Chris Leclaire opened the meeting at 6:30PM with the pledge of allegiance.

**220-Police Department**

Chief Brett Walker presented his budget to the committee. He stated that nothing big has changed in his budget, as it is mostly contractual. Leclaire asked how many patrolmen and units they have in the department, Walker stated that they have 11 marked cars, and they only have 1 vacancy to this day. Diburro asked about the increase in the other professional services line, Walker stated that this line is for physiological services, occupational health, and equipment they may need for crimes. There were questions about the training line, not much has been expended and if the department needs that much money in the line. Walker stated that the line is funded appropriately, as this training is for the police academy along with all the training for his department. There were no other questions or comments from the committee.

-To approve budget 220 Police Dept., \$5,731,763

Motion: M O'Connor

Second: Ed David

Unanimous

-To approve revenue 220 Police Dept., \$89,700

Motion: M O'Connor

Second: Ed David

Unanimous

**225-Police Station**

Walker stated that this budget is for the police station itself and has had a big decrease in the budget do to the full-time personnel not being there. He said they have been outsourcing the cleaning and landscaping and is working well.

-To approve budget 225 Police Station, \$115,500

Motion: M O'Connor

Second: Ed David

Unanimous

## **420-Animal Control**

Walker stated that this budget has not seen any big changes besides a decrease of \$2,000.

-To approve budget 420 Animal Control, \$86,791

Motion: M O'Connor

Second: Ed David

Unanimous

Walker discussed the police revolving account and that this account is for police details, as they are paid for by the hiring companies that may need a police detail. There were no other questions or comments from the committee or Chief Walker.

## **230-Fire Department, 231-Fire Hire, 235-Fire Station, 240-EM and 241-EM RERP**

Chief William Edwards presented his budgets to the committee. He stated that the Board of Selectmen cut the overtime injury line from \$350,000 to \$250,000, and the new sheets have been presented to the committee. Edwards stated that he currently has 20 full time employees spread out between 4 shifts, which include 4 firefighters per shift along with a dispatcher. He said that the ambulance calls are up about 4-6% and engine calls are up about 8% and last year they had about 3,500 calls. Edwards stated that they do have a new engine and ambulance coming and will arrive at the end of 2024 as they take awhile to build and be delivered. There were questions and comments about whether there needed to be more money added to the education pay line, as it looks low. Edwards stated that this line is for the employees that get paid out contractually for the classes they are required to take, he said that it's a bottom-line budget and if he needs to pull from another line, if it was to go over, he will do so. Ed David asked if it was ideal to subtracted some of the overtime line and move it to the education pay line, Manzi stated that the board of selectmen upped the overtime line, and has been chipping away at it for years to make the line on what's expensed, and for the education pay line, they are not sure where this line will stand as some certificates and classes may not have to be renewed, and it's an estimate.

Edwards suggested that the planning board really look at impact fees especially for commercial businesses, as the town has had so many added in the last few years and most of the calls are from business. Ed David asked if it was possible to do impact fees for just commercial, Manzi stated that the laws are very complex, and it would have to be commercial and residential and would really have to research what the impact fees could be spent on.

There were conversations amongst the committee, Edwards and Manzi on exploring to add eight new firefighters in the budget to reduce the overtime and the struggle of the department not being staffed enough. Manzi stated that he will get the numbers to committee on what the department would look like with 8 more firefighters. Leclair stated that all the fire department budgets should be tabled until they get the numbers to review, and then proceed forward. The committee also stated that they would also like to explore the possibility of getting rid of the emergency

management budget, as the power plant used to pay for this position and no longer do. They feel like the fire department could take on the responsibility of the department and cut some of the budget. Hueber would like to see EM director Joe Titone speak on this out of respect as this is his budget. The committee agreed to table all of the fire and emergency management budgets.

-To table the fire and emergency management budgets

Motion: M O'Connor

Second: J Diburro

Unanimous

### **Fire Warrant Articles**

Article 6 – SPFA Union

Motion: M O'Connor

Second: Ed David

Unanimous

Article 9-SCBA and Turnout Gear

Motion: M O'Connor

Second: Ed David

Unanimous

There was no other business handled by the committee and the meeting was adjourned at 9:12PM. Minutes were taken by Kelsey Johnson.