

**Wellfleet Finance Committee**  
**715 Old King's Hwy, Conference Room**  
**Wednesday January 15, 2020, 7:00pm**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Fred Magee, Chair; Kathy Granlund, Vice-Chair; Janet Loewenstein, Linda Pellegrino, Stephen Polowczyk, Bob Wallace, Ira Wood, Sarah Robin (7:04pm)

**Members Absent:** Jeff Tash

**Others Present:** Dan Hoort, Town Administrator; Rebekah Eldridge, Committee Secretary; Helen Miranda-Wilson, Police Chief Michael Hurley, Fire Chief Richard Pauley

Chair Magee called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Chair Magee, asked Hoort if there are any changes in the budget before they began, Hoort explained that the selectboard did approve the fire chief's budget as he presented it, which is not in the finance book.

**Police Department Budget Review ~ Chief Hurley**

- Chief Hurley came before the committee to present his budget for 2021. He started letting the board know there are no new positions except the hiring of an animal control officer and trying to get it under control. He stated to the board that as of right now he and his department are still unsure of the impacts of the marijuana to public safety. There are some host agreements and some shops may be opened by the end of the month in Provincetown. He explained to the board that he is looking into training his staff regarding marijuana, so they are more informed on the state regulations.
- He explained to the board that there is a staffing issue, while some shifts are only covered by one police officer. He explained that with the marijuana being a cash only operation it will be difficult to have only one police officer on duty will be difficult.
- He explained to the board that in his looking three to five-years down the road and the issue he sees coming up will be the radio systems as they are run on analog and need to be upgraded to digital. The state is recommending that any capital spending be pushed towards digital. He stated that in his capital for the next five-years radios are not in it. He is hoping with the states help he will have a time line next budget cycle.
- Chair Magee asked the chief that there were a couple of line items driving an increase, he went up 30% and overtime went up 30%. Chief Hurley stated the specials would be the animal control officer and that money would go there, they are currently looking as a shared position with Eastham but that is still in discussion. He stated the overtime is he would have to investigate. Chair asked about the special even line, chief explained that these are events that happen throughout the town and was created to take the pressure off the overtime line. Some examples were July 4<sup>th</sup>, Oyster fest, parades, beaches.
- Chair asked about the doubling in contract services, Chief Hurley explained he would like to implement for a year, renting a motorcycle for the season. He explained that he does have two department members that are familiar with riding and the state requires a one-month course. He stated that having a motorcycle makes it easier to get to certain places than a police car. He gave the bike path as an example.

- Chair Magee asked to the best of the Chief's ability in the next three to five years ahead is there anything substantial that he sees coming before them. Chief explained he would love to see more funds for training. HE explained he is a big believer in training. He mentioned again the radio's going from analog to digital. Chief explained it is very hard to get new candidates for the job due to low income, and other towns paying more. He has concerns about replacing police officer's that are retiring or out on medical leave. He would like to have more staff in the future if possible. He stated he has one man shifts which he'd like not to have.

### **Fire Department Budget Review ~ Chief Pauley**

- Chief Pauley presented to the board, he started by stating he feels the police chief was being to conservative, he feels very strongly that one officer shifts are unacceptable. It is a huge safety risk to not only the officer but to the public. He proceeded to give examples of instances where more than one officer is necessary. He explained that he tends to stay up late at night and has had to go out on calls because the officer on duty is unable to respond due to bad areas in the town for reception or they are at another location. The board appreciated his concerns and expressed their apologies for not being in the position to hire a new officer now.
- The chief went on to discuss his new ladder truck that he will be receiving. He is meeting with the TA to go over the process.
- He explained to the board that the fire department has put away some funds to be able to move forward with going from analog to digital. The chief went on to state how outdated the town is with their radios. He stated with the fire capital plan he has budgeted for the switch over from analog to digital. He also stated that have been anticipating for the changeover. Chief Pauley stated he will be applying for a federal grant again this year and is hoping he will receive it this year, as he has not in the past.
- Chief stated the only change in his budget is the overtime, he explained they take a five-year look of overtime using three scenarios and take the middle number. He went on to explain that sometimes there are long sick leave of absences, or a vacancy. He needs the staff that is working to work overtime, and he had to budget that. Granlund asked if that if they went over the overtime budget, would there be a public safety risk. Chief replied that he has always been allowed to fill the shifts, the money would be allocated.
- Chief would like to have a minimum of four people on shift. He would like sixteen full time people. Chief stated that they have been able to manage the full time staff because the on call staff was so full, two years ago there were sixteen on call staff members, this year there are four; he stated that he knows of two members retiring which would only leave him with two members for an on call staff. He will need to hire more full-time staff. Chief explained to the committee that this past summer there was a policy put into place where if people weren't available to take an overtime shift, he would have to order a fire staff to stay and cover the shift which he has never had to do in his career. Granlund asked that if he needs to have overtime that the funds are available for him to keep staff on. Hoort said that he would always allow the fire chief to fill the shifts.
- The committee went on to discuss the amount of people that aren't coming to work for the towns and that chiefs across the cape are competing in the same pool of candidates. Chair Magee asked about going forward, will there ever be sixteen on call staff, chief stated they are moving forward

but believes they will never have sixteen on call staff again. He explained that moving forward he will be asking for two more full time staff, and the following year he will ask for another two full time staff members. He would like five new full-time staff members within in the next three budget cycles.

- Chair Magee asked about regionalization with Eastham or Truro, with a floating group of three or four fire staff. Chief liked the model but said with the busy months, the towns don't have enough people to be able to do that. He talked about mutual aid calls, where other towns come to cover or help. Miranda-Wilson asked how many times Wellfleet has needed or used mutual aid calls. He told the board that it's a two to one ratio where every one-time Wellfleet goes to help other towns, Wellfleet needs them two more times. Chief will get those exact numbers for the committee at a future date.

### **Strategic Planning**

- Chair Magee stated that his hope is that through these meetings with department heads they will have a strategic plan in place.

### **Liaison Reports**

- Loewenstein explained she had a report from the library but that will be discussed when she comes in to discuss the budget, she told the committee that down the road there will need to be an update to the library, but they are just beginning talks.

### **Correspondence**

- There was no correspondence

### **Minutes ~ December 18, 2019**

- Polowczyk moved to approve the minutes as written, Granlund seconded the motion, motion carried 8-0

**Polowczyk moved to adjourn, Granlund seconded the motion, Motion carried 8-0**  
**Meeting adjourned 8:30pm**