

**Wellfleet Finance Committee  
Virtual Zoom Meeting  
Wednesday January 13, 2021, 7:00PM  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Fred Magee, Chair; Kathy Granlund, Vice Chair; Linda Pellegrino, Stephen Polowczyk, Jenn Rhodes, Sarah Robin, Ira Wood (7:10pm), Bob Wallace, Jeff Tash

**Others Present:** Rebekah Eldridge, Committee Secretary; Maria Broadbent, Town Administrator; Heather Michaud, Town Accountant; Michael Hurley, Police Chief; Rich Pauley; Fire Chief

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02PM

**Minutes**

- December 16, 2020 – **Polowczyk moved to approve the minutes as amended, Tash seconded the motion; Motion carried 8-0**

**Review Police Department FY 2022 Operations Budget**

- Chair Magee introduced Chief Hurley and asked him to go over his budgets with the committee. Chair Magee asked Chief Hurley to begin with his memo that he sent out asking for two officer patrol shifts. Chief Hurley thanked the committee and began explaining his budgets and memos he had previously sent to the committee. Chair Hurley then went into detail his budget under salaries and wages. He explained that the animal control officer has been moved from part time to full time in an agreement with Eastham. Chief Hurley went on to discuss body cameras that he stated had been put off for a few years and is a needed tool in the field recognizing that they are an expense but stating that there are communities are using body cameras. He stated the cameras are not the expensive part it's the system and program updates that are the more costly of them. Chief Hurley explained why the body cameras are so important to have, he stated he was hoping that the state would have some sort of grant for the cameras but to date there is no grants. He discussed the body cameras more with the committee. Chair Magee asked a few questions regarding staffing. Polowczyk asked if any members had any issues with the budget. The committee went into detailed discussion about voting on each budget as they are presented. There were no objections.
- **Polowczyk moved to approve the police budget as presented; Pellegrino seconded the motion; Motion passed 9-0.**
- **Wood moved to approve the police communications budget as presented, Polowczyk seconded the motion; motion carried 9-0.**
- Chief Hurley thanked the committee and administration for their support.

## **Review Fire Department FY 2022 Operations Budget**

- Chair Magee introduced Chief Pauley and asked him to present his budget to the committee. Chief Pauley explained that the biggest increase in his budget is the salary budgets and the contracts. He went over his line items in detail. He explained that he has eliminated the stipend for the staff when going on an ambulance run and moved it to hourly for them. He explained it's how they are paid, it evens out. He went into detail with how the payroll is made. Chair Magee asked about a few line items that are high. Chief Pauley explained what the line items are and why they are as high as they are. There was discussion with the committee for more full-time positions at the fire department. Chief Pauley went into detail about needing more staff and the need for Wellfleet to be similar to the surrounding towns salary wise. Chair Magee asked Michaud and Broadbent their thoughts on the increasing budgets. The committee went into further discussion with Chief Pauley regarding his budgets. There was discussion about the new community housing would be able to be offered to the firefighters and paramedics so they can stay in Wellfleet. There was also discussion, on the upcoming spring and summer being busier than last year and hopeful things will be a more normal than the previous year. The chief informed the committee that both police and fire departments are almost finished with their first round of Covid-19 vaccination shots.
- **Tash moved to approve the budget as presented, Polowczyk seconded the motion, motion carried 9-0.**

## **Liaison Reports**

- Chair Magee stated that he has spoken with the school administrator Tom Conrad regarding the high school project. As the chair understands there is a regional vote on March 30<sup>th</sup> that will decide if the project is to move forward as structured. It needs to be a 50% vote. There was discussion about updating the school verses building a new school, the decision comes down to the state and how they will go about this. They discussed the school and the need for it. Broadbent stated to the board that the school will be on the January 26<sup>th</sup> selectboard meeting agenda. The committee discussed the bond and the loan length. Rhodes asked Chair Magee if there was discussion on lumber prices which right now are very high, Chair Magee stated he didn't get into that discussion and Broadbent explained that because it is a commercial building to meet code it would have to be steel.

## **Transfers**

- There were no transfers at this meeting

## **Correspondence**

- Eldridge informed the board that they had received a letter from Bill Dugan regarding school choice and his opposition for it. Chair Magee expressed that the fincom doesn't have the authority to dictate school choice. They will look at this letter at their next meeting.

## **New Business**

- Chair Magee introduced Heather Michaud the new town accountant and explained she will be at future fincom meetings. Michaud thanked the board and explained what her plans are regarding the town finances and is hopeful that she will have finance reports for future meetings.
- Chair Magee asked Michaud how she is working with Lisa Souve to reconcile the books for the town for the past few years. Michaud explained that Souve's mission is to reconcile the previous years to make sure all numbers are matching with what is in the bank. Michaud is doing current transactions and Souve is doing past transactions, so they are able to meet in the middle with finances.
- Broadbent went into discussion stating that she is working to get the town on more of a schedule and routine so that the town can work as one smooth function.
- Chair Magee stated their next meeting will be January 27, 2021. Polowczyk requested that Chair Magee question Curt Felix about the five-hundred thousand dollars that has been spent. Chair Magee stated he would question Felix.

**Polowczyk moved to adjourn the meeting; Tash seconded the motion; motion carried 9-0**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm**

## ***Public Records:***

*Police 2022 Operating Budget*  
*Fire 2022 Operating Budget*  
*Memo regarding one officer police shifts*  
*Memo regarding summer officer program*  
*Memo regarding police additional budget request*  
*Memo regarding police body cameras*  
*Memo regarding additional paramedic's request*