

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1980

Present: Anne W. Donald, Acting Chairman, and William J. Cossart.

The statutory requirements as to notice having been fulfilled, the special meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Donald at 8:30 a.m. in the Loring Parsonage.

Fire Department Budget Review - FY1982

Present: Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost and William Wood, Finance Committee Liaison.

The Board reviewed the Fire Department budget prepared for Fiscal Year 1981-82 with the Fire Chief, noting his recommendations for cuts which would be necessary to arrive at a Proposition 2½ budget. Chief Frost stated that these cuts would have the following ramifications on his department:

Loss of six firefighter/EMT's (this would not impair the ambulance program, as there would still be enough EMT's on staff).

Station #3 would be closed 85% of the time - being used principally as a garage for vehicles and equipment.

Would not be able to cover for personnel out sick, on vacation, etc., unless three men were off at a time during same shift.

Foresees a need to alter contract conditions relative to holiday pay, number of men on vacation at any one time, and callback.

Initial attack force would be smaller and fires would take longer to put out - losses greater. Problems with simultaneous calls.

Roof on Station #3 would not be replaced. Ambulance chassis and Car #1 would not be replaced as scheduled.

Fire alarm cable program would be suspended.

Out-of-state travel, Master Planning Program and protective clothing replacement would be limited.

During discussion, Chief Frost was asked to check the question of early retirement as a means of reducing his force, reviewing possibility of candidates and whether this would be economical. In addition, the Chief was requested to look into the question of establishing a force of Call Firefighters.

Chief Frost expressed his opinion that we should continue to provide the ambulance service, as it is now working well and is the most economical method in the long run. He indicated, however, that he was requesting fees from private companies for an updated comparison. He further recommended that fees be increased from \$30 to \$60.

Chief Frost requested that the Town Meeting consider the Town budget before taking up the school budgets, in order that the Town might review the needs of the protection and other departments before excessive expenditures are made for schools, leaving insufficient funds for needed Town services. In discussion on this subject, there was a consensus of opinion among the Board, the Chief, and William Wood, Finance Committee Liaison, that it would be advisable to present all the budgets to the Town Meeting before any votes are taken on individual budgets. It was agreed that this matter would be brought up for discussion with the Finance Committee.

Upon the recommendation of the Executive Secretary, the Board instructed Chief Frost to submit his budget at the requested Proposition 2½ level (\$628,846), with the accompanying message that the \$35,000 necessary to keep two more firemen be reinstated if at all possible if there is any excess money at the end of the budgetary process.

William Wood requested that the Finance Committee be provided with a list of those services the Town is legally obligated to provide. It was agreed that such a list identifying mandated programs and their minimum cost should be available for Town Meeting.

Police Department Budget Review - FY1982

Present: Police Chief Nicholas Lombardi and William Wood, Finance Committee Liaison.

The Board met with Chief Nicholas Lombardi to review the Police Department budget for Fiscal Year 1981-82, and considered the following cuts proposed by Chief Lombardi to meet Proposition 2½ limits:

- Elimination of the Civilian Dispatcher and five patrolmen.
- Eliminate one cruiser, and eliminate request for cruiser replacement.
- Eliminate the Auxiliary.
- Cut college incentive budget by 3/4.
- Cut overtime by approximately 28%.
- Cut \$1000 from general expense.
- Cut maintenance account by \$6000.

Following discussion on the Chief's recommendation to eliminate the Auxiliary, the Board requested Chief Lombardi to report back on his determination of the full value, monetary or otherwise, of the Auxiliary to the Department.

Chief Lombardi noted that he had not included any money for requalifying EMT's since there are now sufficient EMT's in the Fire Department, and that it was his recommendation that he just train his men as first responders. Due to the costliness of EMT training, the Board agreed with this procedure.

During review of the Overtime budget, it was noted that a certain amount of coverage (\$28,653) was mandated under the union contract and for minimum holiday/court and matron coverage.

Chief Lombardi asked the Board whether he should continue to train all of the new men, since they may have to be laid off next year. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with training as usual this year, as there were too many unknown factors and a possibility of reimbursement from the town an officer is transferred to.

There was discussion relative to the impact of not replacing cruisers according to the usual scheduling, and Mr. Wood requested an explanation be provided and the dollar justification for continuing with the replacement next year, regardless of budget restraints. It was noted that, while the Chief's original budget called for the replacement of four cruisers, funds for two new cruisers would be sufficient with the cutback in personnel. The Board requested that funds for the two cruisers be reinstated in the budget if at all possible.

In further explanation of what the above-stated cuts would mean, Chief Lombardi stated that he would probably use the sergeant as dispatcher, there would be a loss of specialties -- detectives, juvenile officer, safety officer -- and overtime cuts would mean an overall loss of covering for absences, etc.

Chief Lombardi was requested by the Board to submit his budget to the Finance Committee showing where he was making his cuts, indicating his priorities for possible reinstatement.

Building Department Budget - FY1982

Present: Joseph E. Scammon, Building Inspector.

Building Inspector Joseph E. Scammon presented to the Board his proposed cuts to the Building Department budget for Fiscal Year 1981-82 prepared to meet the requirements of Proposition 2 1/2. He presented one budget estimate totaling \$134,323, which revised maintenance accounts as follows: fuel oil, \$23,500; electricity, \$18,100; gas, \$4,160; water, \$210; general expense and repair, \$6,000; and supplies, \$1,650. Mr. Scammon stated that to arrive at a budget of \$130,223, he would recommend cutting expenses associated with maintenance of the Hosmer House.

Since new budget estimate figures were now available, setting the Building Department hypothetical budget at \$131,510, the Selectmen requested the Building Inspector to cut the remaining \$2,813 from his secretarial (preferably) or his custodial salaries.

The Board expressed its desire to have uniform estimated rates for gasoline and fuel oil used by all departments in preparing their budgets, and it was agreed to address this matter with the Finance Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Attest:

Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary-Clerk