

Hancock Budget Advisory Committee  
December 17, 2013  
Minutes

Present: Lauren Carney, Matthew Hale, and Pat Payne, with Chief Nevan Cassidy attending on behalf of the Fire Department.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06.

Chief Cassidy took the committee through the Fire Department 2014 budget request, line by line, with the notable highlights being:

120 – WAGES – Chief Cassidy noted that the hourly rate paid for calls has been unchanged “for the past 7 years, or so.” He noted that while no one on the department serves for the money it would be helpful to look at adjusting the hourly rate to keep pace with inflation, etc...

341 – TELEPHONE – The total request of \$1,344 is based on what Fairpoint charges. “They charge what they charge and we need the service.”

410 – PUBLIC SERVICE – line item is zero due to the solar panels installed on the roof of the fire house.

430 – MAINTENANCE – The overall request is \$7,620, with a new line item request for \$1,000 to cover the cost of maintaining and servicing the water pumps on the trucks. “We have lots of pumps on the trucks and it has come to our attention that they require more maintenance than what we've previously been doing. We'd hate to show up on a call and have one of our pumps fail at the worst possible time.”

700 – TRAINING – The overall training budget request will be \$7,100, with the line item request for EMT B Continuing Ed. Tuition at \$3,500. “The department is lucky to have so many folks who are

willing to put in the time and training to be an EMT and ongoing training is a requirement.”

740 – EQUIPMENT – The line item is zero as the department has been doing its own fund raising and benefits from trust funds managed by the town.

745 – MUTUAL AID DISPATCH – The overall budget request is for \$22,058, of which \$21,908 is for dispatch service provided by Southwestern Mutual Aid. The \$21,908 figure is 7% higher than the present year, which, according to Chief Cassidy “They charge what they charge and we need the service.”

Overall, the Fire Department budget request shows a net increase of \$2,568.40 over current budget levels.

When asked by HBAC committee members if there was anything that the department needed which wasn't reflected in the budget Nevan indicated that seeing the hourly rate for calls increased to reflect cost of living increases would be supportive and helpful. He indicated that he'd welcome the opportunity to discuss this with the Select Board. He also indicated that the apron area in front of the station could use some repaving attention as over time Bennington Road has been repaved and added to so now the apron is lower than the road and it causes water to build up. This expense is not reflected in the budget but is something that he'd like to discuss with the Select Board and Kurt Grasset.

The next meeting of the HBAC will be on Tuesday, January 7th, 2014, at 6 PM.

Ron Mack will ask representatives of the Conservation Commission and the Recreation Committee to attend the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew HaleMatthew Hale