

Town of Oakham

Board of Selectmen

Work Session

Minutes of January 18, 2022

Present: Lucy Tessnau-Chairman, Don Haapakoski-Vice Chairman, Brad Taylor-Clerk

In attendance: Maribel LaRange-BOS admin asst, Tim Howe-Fire Chief, Fred Gehring-Police Chief, Paul Rochette, Sue Shays, Steven Labarre, Stephen Dollinger (via phone), Allen Flagg, Tom Hughes

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM by Chairman, Lucy Tessnau

Fire Budget: The BOS along with members of Fincom reviewed the fire department's budget requests for FY23 presented by the Fire Chief, Tim Howe. Tim went through his budget and explained the bigger amounts on his requests. Tim said the vehicle repairs budget is currently 10,000 and now asking 15,000 as they are an old fleet and repairs are needed to be made. The communication equipment budget is currently 1,500 and asking 2,500 due to buying new pagers. Don said to ask Mike Moriarty, Rutland Dispatch about development grant for pagers, if possible, to get them that way. Tim said engine 3, 1999 truck will need to be replaced in the future. Steve Labarre mentioned capital funds to replace that truck. Tim said he hasn't received a capital funding request form.

Police Budget: The BOS along with members of Fincom reviewed the police departments and animal control officer's budget requests for FY23 presented by Police Chief, Fred Gehring. Chief Gehring went through his budget request and explained his bigger line items. He asked for a 5% increase on police/chief salary based on the inflation increase. Lucy asked Chief Gehring if his request of 20,000 was enough for police/training, current budget is 14,169 and the Chief Gehring said yes. BOS said that dog licenses should be in the police budget.

The current arraigning courthouse for Oakham is in East Brookfield and it very inconvenient with the arraigning process for our Police Officers having to go back and forth with the detained from the sheriff's office and back in West Boylston. Chief Gehring said how he would rather have the Worcester District Court House be the arraigning court for Oakham.

Discussion of purchase of laptop & printer for town accountant: The Town Account, Tom Wilson is requesting a laptop and printer as he will be working from home, which the board has approved at a previous meeting. The BOS thought maybe he could just take the desktop and printer he currently has in his office but that is not possible as he needs to leave the desktop here to connect to the server. Tom is currently using his wife's personal/work laptop with the

software splashtop, which mirrors his desktop in the office. The BOS is going to look into what equipment might already be in the town hall and talk to CMGeeks to see what can be done to accommodate Tom.

New Business: No new business

Old Business: Lucy reported that the new storage container was delivered and the rental one from Eagle leasing has been picked up and last bill paid.

Sue Shays notified the BOS she emailed them the Spectrum contract, which they received.

Maribel told sue she emailed it to Town Counsel and that when he gets a reply back would let Sue know.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 PM: Lucy made motion to adjourn, Don 2nd, Brad all in favor.