



SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING SELECTBOARD MINUTES

NOVEMBER 18, 2002

Members Present: Brian Greenia, James Paige, Mark Struhsacker, Shaun Bryer and Lee Sturtevant

Department Heads: Paul D. McGinley, TA; MPD Chief Richard Keith; George & Dot Cook; Sandi Utton and MFD Chief Wally Reeve

Chair Brian Greenia called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM at the Morristown Municipal conference room.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW

MPD:

The Selectboard reviewed the Morristown Police Department proposed budget with Chief Keith. In his overview of the budget, Chief Keith stated he was more or less level funded except for wages and union benefits. Jim Paige asked the Chief if there were any areas that he felt were constricted. Chief Keith stated he felt the area of Highway Safety was constricted. Chair Greenia asked if there would be more revenues in the way of tickets if there were more enforcement. Chief Keith stated yes there would be more revenues, but it was hard to find officers.

Other issues discussed included: State Police lease of office space, leased vehicles, building conditions, employee benefits, space and improvements and communication with the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department on available programs and dispatching. Chief Keith leaves at this time.

MRS:

The Ambulance budget was reviewed with Dot and George Cook and Sandi Utton. Other topics discussed included Ambulance Service for the five other towns currently served by Lamoille Ambulance; the issue of hiring Paramedics, and how this effects Morristown; the lack of volunteers to cover daytime shifts and the possibility of recruiting local employees to cover these slots. Other issues discussed were the concept of incorporating janitorial services with volunteers on call, including restocking of the ambulance. Cell phones, billing and training was also discussed. Dot, George and Sandi left the meeting at this time.



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MFD:

Chief Wally Reeve reported the department's call volume is down this year by 10%. When asked by the Board what Wally could see for the department's future, he replied that the long-term plan would be to combine the fire and rescue departments. Wally felt that by having a joint membership, the departments would have better training and when it comes to a time when fulltime coverage is needed, it would be a waste of money to have two separate organizations.

Morristown Fire Dept holds an Open House in the fall for recruiting purposes. This year they recruited five new members, but only one was available for daytime calls. He felt that even as a joint organization with one administrator, volunteers can be unique to each department, but any fulltime employees would need to be able to go to either call. Call forces were also discussed.

Other discussion included a position of *town mechanic*, who would be available to work on all vehicles in each department. Another possibility was subcontracting out to a local repair shop, possibly Leon's Repair Service operated by Leon Kinsley.

It was questioned whether any revenues could be generated by the fire department. Wally stated it was illegal to charge for fire calls. He stated the only calls that could be back charged were for hazardous spills.

The Selectboard questioned the dollar figure in the Other Purchase Services item line of the fire department budget. Wally stated this figure was a contingency account instituted to cover costs of renting a backhoe or drott if needed for a major event. Board member Paige responded by saying that MPD didn't put any additional money in their budget for a major homicide if it should occur. Wally left at this time.

HEALTH DEPT:

New members of the Board questioned how the budget figure for the Health Officer was determined. Was it a flat rate set, or was it tied to anything? Was the fee linked to the number of calls or complaints the Health Officer received such as the Animal Control Officer? At this time, the fee is a set rate no matter how many calls the Officer receives.

The Board requested a monthly log of all calls and action taken be submitted to the Administration Office to be included in their meeting packets. The Selectboard requested the Town Administrator discuss this with Mr. Godfrey.



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VT STATE POLICE OFFICE RENT:

The Town Administrator presented a letter written to Ed Turbitt regarding the proposed rental rates for space at the MPD station.

On a motion by Lee Sturtevant, seconded by James Paige, the Selectboard authorized the TA's letter to be sent to Ed Turbitt regarding the VT State Police rental rates. So passed.

ADJOURN

On a motion by James Paige, seconded by Shaun Bryer, the Selectboard moved to adjourn at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted and filed this 21st day of November, 2002
Barbara Cochran, Scribe

Minutes to be presented for approval at the next Selectboard Meeting.

Minutes Approved

Date