

Minutes of the Town Board Budget Work Session held October 5, 2005 in the Kitchen of the LaFayette Commons Office Building at 2577 Route 11 in the Town of LaFayette at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Gregory Scammell, Supervisor
Sandra Smith, Councilor
David Knapp, Councilor
William McConnell, Councilor

ABSENT: Thomas Bailey, Councilor

RECORDING SECRETARY: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT: Thomas Chartrand, Bookkeeper
Jack Sutton, LFD
Greg Hoxie, LFD
John Harper, LFD

Supervisor Scammell called the meeting to order at 6:06.

The Town Clerk took the roll. Councilor Bailey was absent and all else were present.

Health insurance costs were discussed.

LAFAYETTE FIRE DEPT. Jack Sutton, Greg Hoxie, John Harper

The LFD is requesting \$331,700 for 2006.

They heat with propane but are hooked up for natural gas if needed.

Greg Hoxie said this year there is more requested for vehicle fuel. They have already utilized \$5,800 of the \$6,000 they allotted for this year. An estimated increase of 35% is what is being advised for electricity and fuel.

The Board asked how many more years they have to pay on the building.

John Harper said about 2 ½ years more.

Councilor McConnell asked what brought the legal and accounting from \$7,000 to \$11,000.

Greg Hoxie said in 2004 the town but n \$4,000 for this. This year they took the \$4,000 and put it in this category so it's all in one spot.

Councilor McConnell asked what the Capital Reserve Account is at now.

John Harper said \$356,000.

Greg Hoxie said they are in the process of looking into a replacement engine for Station 2. They switched the replacement of the ambulance and the engine around a couple of years ago as the ambulance needed to be replaced first.

Councilor McConnell asked if they had ever thought about consolidating and closing Station 2.

Greg Hoxie said yes.

John Harper believes the residents would object.

Greg Hoxie said could it be done? Yes. Would people be upset? Absolutely. It was noted there are no hydrants on Route 11A.

Greg Hoxie said a lot of guys are looking at 2006 to replace the engine. He is looking at 2007.

Councilor McConnell asked how much it will cost.

Greg Hoxie said about \$300,000 unless you put everything you want on it then it could be \$500,000.

Councilor McConnell asked how much reduction they could take in their Capital Reserve for 2006.

Greg Hoxie said they wouldn't go down that road. This is has been done before.

John Harper said their budget always gets cut \$30,000-\$40,000.

Greg Hoxie said the real number should be about \$130,000. He said they can deal with the \$105,000 and be able to replace what they need to replace. The engine is \$300,000. If they stay on the 20-year equipment replacement plan, they need to keep this amount in the Capital Reserve.

Councilor McConnell asked how many calls they responded to last year.

Greg Hoxie said 512 fire and EMS calls.

Councilor McConnell asked about calls outside the area.

Greg Hoxie said about 100. He said in 2004 he thinks the fire calls were about 180 and the remainder were EMS calls.

Councilor McConnell asked if the \$40,000 in equipment is earmarked for radios.

Greg Hoxie said no. He listed the other items they need to replace.

John Harper said every year they get cut and if they keep getting cut, they won't make the replacement's when they are needed.

Greg Hoxie said this is what they propose as their operating budget. They come in here with their proposal every year and the Board decides on another amount. The negotiation breaks down and the determination is whatever the Town Board decides.

Councilor McConnell asked if the Town Board cannot support this amount, what would the LFD support?

Jack Sutton said the membership would have to give their O.K.

Greg Hoxie said they might be able to take a reduction in their buildings and grounds or vehicle maintenance amounts. He noted they are still in the running for the FEMA grants.

Jack Sutton said the simplest way to do the budget would be for the town to give them the gas and pay the electric and heating bill.

Training was discussed.

Greg Hoxie said in a lot of towns when it comes to budget time and something needs to be cut, it seems training is where the cuts are.

Councilor McConnell said when the LFD gets an amount from the town, they can divide it the way they want.

Jack Sutton said right now they are out of fuel money.

Greg Hoxie said turnout gear is only good for about 10 years. They try to replace about 5 each year. They are getting quite a few young people in. He hopes they stay. They have been averaging about 6 new good members a year who stay with the department.

Councilor Knapp said the Board is still researching the property tax incentive.

Greg Hoxie said St. Lawrence County is doing it county-wide.

Councilor McConnell asked if this includes retirees.

Greg Hoxie doesn't know.

Jack Sutton thinks once you retire, that is it.

Greg Hoxie thinks they have left it open enough that the town can set its own rules on it but he's not sure. He would like to see guys like that included in it but they might not be.

Councilor Knapp said we have heard about problems with burning for Clean-Up Days next year. Leon Cook has advised no more burn permits would be issued. The budget for Clean-Up days was increased quite a bit to allow for stuff to be taken to OCRRA that has been burned in the past. He asked if they had heard anything about this.

Greg Hoxie said no. The only thing he has heard is as long as it's just wood, we are fine. He will check into this for the Board.

The Board thanked the LFD Members for coming in.

Future discussion took place regarding the 2006 Budget proposals.

Councilor's Knapp moved and McConnell seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

The Town Board Budget Work Session adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly
Town Clerk

Councilor's Knapp moved and McConnell seconded the motion to accept the Town Board September 26, 2005 Regular Meeting Minutes and Budget Meeting Minutes, September 28, 2005. October 3, 2005 and October 5, 2006 Budget Meeting Minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk. Voting was as follows:

Supervisor Scammell	Voted	Yes
Councilor Smith	Voted	Yes
Councilor Knapp	Voted	Yes
Councilor Bailey	Voted	Yes on September 26 and September 28 Minutes. Abstain on October 3rd and 5th Minutes
Councilor McConnell	Voted	Yes

Motion carried.