

Minutes of the Town Board Special Budget Meeting held September 23, 2003 in the Meeting Room of the LaFayette Commons Office Building at 2577 Route 11 in the Town of LaFayette.

Present: Gregory Scammell, Supervisor
Norman Paul, Councilman
Sandra Smith, Councilwoman
David Knapp, Councilman
Thomas Bailey, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

Others Present: Thomas Chartrand, Bookkeeper
Anne Smith, Historian
Leon Cook, Highway Superintendent
Bill Poirier, JFD
Pat Keefe, Information Officer
David Murray, LCC
Ken Neuman, LFD
Jack Sutton, LFD
John Harper, LFD
Nunzio Vadala, LFD
Maureen Perrin, Town Justice
John Aiken, Assess. Griev. Board of Review
Ron Witty, JFD
Kevin Carroll, JFD
Jim Colbert, JFD

Supervisor Scammell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
The Town Clerk took the Roll. All present.
Pledge to the U.S. Flag.

ASSESSMENT GRIEVANCE BOARD OF REVIEW: - John Aiken, Chairman

John Aiken said their job is very easy because the Assessor's do a really good job. They meet once or twice yearly. They don't want a raise in salary. He requested reducing the chairman's salary and giving the money to the other members of the Grievance Board.

Councilman Paul asked how many folks came before them this year.

John Aiken said they probably talked to 4 people who didn't reach closure on their concerns prior to the meeting. Of those 4, they gave them each consideration.

Councilman Paul asked if they came from a specific geographic location.

John Aiken said he believes this year the entire town was reassessed. There were 4 that came to their table. Clearly the Assessors did a whale of a job.

TOWN HISTORIAN: Anne Smith

Anne Smith asked the Board if they had any questions about the letter she wrote. Essentially since she has been in office for 9 months, there's an annual salary of \$462 which is about \$1.92/hour. She thinks her time is worth more than that. She listed 13 things she has done so far and is working on more. She respectfully requested a \$2,100 budget for 2004. \$1,600 of this is her salary and the remainder for dues, supplies and postage, etc.

Councilman Bailey asked if there are any upcoming projects.

Anne Smith said in about 2 weeks they will be having another photo exhibit in the back of the Meeting Room. The photos will be mounted temporarily. The other project is to finish doing the frame project for the rest of the photo's. She is trying to work on a grant to do a more elaborate lesson plan for the 5th grade class when they do their annual history program.

TOWN JUSTICES - Maureen Perrin

Maureen Perrin said what is critical to her is their request for Kim Amidon of not only a raise but also an increase in hours. She is currently at \$8.50/hour. Her training, skills, and what she's brought to the court far surpass this rate. They would like her for more hours. She is requesting 25 hours a week as opposed to 19 hours for Kim. If they get the increase to 25 hours, they could probably live with \$8.75/hour. As far as any raises for the rest of the personnel, they have requested 5%. She had Kim Amidon pull some statistics from January 1, 2002 to August 31, 2002 and the total of cases handled were 1,847. The same period of time for 2003 shows 2,075 cases. They are handling more penal cases and DWI's. Last year for the same time period it was 20 cases and sadly it was 32 cases this year. The time period on a DWI case is probably one of the cases that takes more time than any other case. There is so much paperwork with Albany, adjournments, etc. Their B & T increased 1,097 to 1,386. The dollars are down because people are not paying. Every ticket is faced with a \$70 surcharge before a fine is imposed. A lot of people don't have this money. They aren't caught up with until their licenses are suspended by Albany and they try to renew them.

Councilman Paul asked if they have a certain time period to pay.

Maureen Perrin said yes, 30 days. She has given people 3 months. The problem is their licenses are suspended but they might not realize it until they go to renew them, which could be in 5 years. The only other way you might get caught before renewing your license is for another violation.

Councilman Paul asked if there is anything levied on top of this if they aren't on time.

Maureen Perrin said no. The computer leasing will be up. It will be \$2,800 to lease the computers now and it was \$2,300. The rest of the budget is fine as far as equipment, etc. Part of her says the economy is bad but on the other hand, with this volume of cases, they are spending a lot more time.

Councilman Paul asked if the hours were increased would Kim take advantage of the medical benefits?

Mary Jo Kelly said she would have to increase her hours to 30 hours a week.

Maureen Perrin asked about retirement.

Tom Chartrand said 20 hours is the cut of from part-time to full-time.

Councilman Paul asked if Kim would have to take the Civil Service exam.

Maureen Perrin believes they are exempt.

Tom Chartrand said it would give her more hours for retirement. The increased salary would affect the town portion. The Town is paying about 11 ½ % of the individual's salary and the individual is paying 3%.

Maureen Perrin hopes Eva will be with them for another 20 years. Obviously they have worked very hard to groom Kim towards the successor. She thinks Kim is very happy here and would hate to have her go somewhere else. Eventually she sees Kim going full-time.

RECEIVER OF TAXES - Linda Pinkerton

Linda Pinkerton said she really doesn't have anything as she's ending her term.

Marshall Taylor said he discussed putting extra money into the Receiver of Taxes budget for the extra computer lease. This must be increased by \$100/month.

Tom Chartrand said he ran the budget based on this years expenses and there's plenty in the budget to cover it.

INFORMATION OFFICER - Pat Keefe

Pat Keefe said everything is the same. The new issue of the paper is on the presses and will be delivered over the weekend.

Supervisor Scammell said she does a wonderful job.

ANIMAL CONTROL - Sue Snavlin, Deputy Dog Control Officer

Sue Snavlin had nothing new to add. She wishes she could give a number on complaints. There is a lot.

Councilman Paul asked if she would care to comment on the number of dogs she has picked up.

Sue Snavlin said at this point in time it's 28 that she has picked up and put through the shelter. There's probably double that amount of complaints by the end of the year. There are a considerable number of dogs she and Madeline know who the owner is and they returnn the dogs to their owner so they never make it through the system. Probably 50% of the dogs that go through the shelter are adopted out.

Tom Chartrand said Sue had expressed interest if there is a computer available for her to use to track dogs. If there are any computers going off lease, it might be a good use for one of them.

Sue Snavlin said it would be a lot easier for them to identify the dog and get it back home rather than going through the shelter and the town incurring the expenses.

JAMESVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Ron Witty introduced himself. They sent the Town Board a letter last month asking for an increase in their funding for coverage of the LaFayette District under their control. They are asking for a substantial increase. Their estimate is around \$48,000 in revenue from that fire district. They are asking for an increase to \$40,000 for the first year. It's a reasonable figure for their coverage.

A member of the JFD said being a resident of LaFayette in the Jamesville Fire District, he would like to see the money collected from that district go to the Jamesville Fire Department. He believes they only got \$29,840 last year. They are only asking for \$40,000 this year and all of it that is collected in 2005. They feel anything collected by the Town of LaFayette is for them. It's only natural that they should get it.

Councilman Knapp asked if they had a ballpark percentage for the number of calls they do in that district.

A gentleman from the JFD said approximately 30%.

Another member said a lot of their calls are for Jamesville Beach for rescue or if the fire alarm panel goes off.

Supervisor Scammell asked what their overall budget is.

A member said it was \$320,000 last year. That doesn't include the \$29,000 from the Town of LaFayette.

Councilman Bailey said they mentioned there were some big ticket items for 2004.

A member said they are in the process of a possible new building as their district is getting bigger. They have some new houses that have gone up in the Town of LaFayette in their district and they need to protect them also. Their main big ticket item is a new building.

Ron Witty feels the expansion of the Town of LaFayette will require extra funds to protect.

Councilwoman Smith asked what type of calls they go on.

Mr. Witty said anything covered by 911 other than police. These are 30% of their calls.

Councilman Knapp asked if ambulance is included.

A member said yes.

Councilman Knapp said it's through Rural Metro.

A member said there's been more rescue than fire. Rural Metro gets called out automatically.

Councilman Paul asked if LaFayette covers that district now.

A member said anything west of Jamesville Reservoir.

Councilman Paul asked if the fire district they are talking about is being covered by LaFayette.

A member said if LaFayette is in service, they will respond. Rural Metro comes as a backup to LaFayette. They are cancelled if LaFayette is available.

ASSESSOR - Marshall Taylor, Assessor/Clerk

Marshall Taylor said their budget shows a little increase from last year. They are asking for 5% increase in salaries. The cost of living doesn't really give you a pay raise. He doesn't think there's been any pay raises in the past that he has seen. Because of the state budget, the town has qualified for aid due to the reval but he doesn't know how much if anything we will get. He is hoping we will get some money but has no guarantee. There will be 3 computers coming off lease in January. His will come off and the 2 in Justice. He has asked the Justice Dept. to include extra money in their budgets for hard drives. Due to the sensitive data on their hard drives, he would recommend having them destroyed and new hard drives purchased. There has been discussion about Kim Amidon taking one home to work at home on it. There will be a PC in his office that he will be putting on the other desk. The historical person (Anne Smith) has asked for one of the PC's left over. He doesn't see a time when the PC's we use aren't going to be needed by the town employees. His own personal hours are changed to 30 hours a week. He isn't asking for any more money. He comes in at 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Councilwoman Smith asked if he increased his hours to 30 without Town Board approval.

Marshall Taylor said he told the Board in July or August that he would be increasing his hours to 30 hours. If there is a problem, he won't do it. He has done it for one month. He is doing this to qualify for the benefits and vacation.

Councilwoman Smith said if this takes place, isn't this Board setting precedent for other part-time employees to take it upon themselves to increase their hours for the benefits?

Marshall Taylor said he did this because it wasn't a part-time position in the past. When the Employee Policy was changed to 30 hours, he thought he was grandfathered and he wasn't. This is a result of something the Town Board approved. He is trying to get back what he thought he had.

Councilman Knapp asked about the office supplies in the amount of \$2,000.

Marshall Taylor said this was originally for office furniture that they didn't use so he didn't put it in the budget this year.

HIGHWAY - Leon Cook, Highway Superintendent

Leon Cook said they have proposed the same thing they had in 2003 only because of the prices increasing on materials, the budget is up a little. The increase in payroll they figured is 3%. He reviewed the increase in the cost of materials.

Councilman Knapp asked if this is the last payment on the truck.

Tom Chartrand said yes.

Leon Cook said he talked with the guys at the Highway Dept. and the majority of them feel if the Town Board expects them to pay 1% of their medical benefits, it wouldn't kill anybody. He doesn't think any of his men would really feel bad about it.

Supervisor Scammell said that is good to know.

Leon Cook knows the Town Board will be discussing this at budget time so he wanted to let them know.

Councilman Bailey asked if there are any pending retirements of his guys.

Leon Cook said not this year. Cliff Parker has over 30 years. He thinks when Bill Doupe comes of age, he might be the first one to retire. He has another year yet. They spent \$48,000 on the ice storm. Normally if FEMA didn't come in, they would have to eat all of the cost. They got \$22,000 back, which he is happy about. FEMA won't pay straight time. This is just for the equipment and they only had one day they worked time and a half. Getting the \$22,000 back will help them. Councilman Bailey really helped out with the ice storm.

The Town Board took a short recess. They recessed at 7:25 p.m. and Supervisor Scammell called the Special Town Board Budget Meeting back to order at 7:33 p.m.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL - David Murray, President

David Murray believes sometime down the road they should get the Beach out of Community Council's hands. He put these numbers separately in their budget. He reviewed the budget.

Supervisor Scammell asked about the concession building storage.

David Murray said it's a separate building they are taking a look at. At the end of the parking lot they would like to put some more storage space up for the net for the batting cage, some lacrosse goals and soccer goals.

Councilman Paul asked if they had already asked the school for funding for the tennis and basketball courts.

David Murray thinks the school might be providing ½ of the funding for the tennis courts. There is an issue with their budget process too.

Councilman Knapp said John MacDaniel sent the same letter to the school as he sent to the Town Board.

David Murray believes the school, Community Council, Optimist Club, will all share a portion of this.

Councilman Paul asked if at one time we tried to get some grant money for recreation and got turned down. He asked if there are any grants available for this.

No one knew of any.

Councilwoman Smith asked if this happens, would the school kick in for the maintenance and upkeep of it?

David Murray said he doesn't think the discussion has gotten that far along yet. The school wants to have a 3rd tennis court put in and they will be in charge of their net on it. When the school needed it, they would have a post they could install over the basketball court so they could use it for matches.

Councilman Knapp thinks the Optimist Club takes care of the maintenance now.

Councilman Bailey asked if the tennis court would be retrofitted on the existing basketball court.

David Murray said they would extend the basketball court by about 15'.

Councilman Paul asked if the figures submitted were the actual cost. David Murray didn't know.

Councilman Knapp said the fencing was an estimate from Atlas or Butler. He thinks the numbers are a pretty good base.

Councilman Bailey asked if there are any intramural basketball leagues from various groups. Would there be a conflict with the basketball and tennis usage of the court?

David Murray said the only use he knows of on the basketball court now is the summer program for the boys. Other than that, it's just public use. He said Community Council is very diligent in getting their coaches. There is the risk of getting the wrong person in the wrong situation. This is something they keep an eye out for. He just wanted to bring this to the Town Board's attention and ask for their support.

Councilwoman Smith asked how coaches are chosen.

David Murray said a lot of the volunteers are parents who step forward and have a personal interest in the sport. If the parents who volunteer aren't known, they personally try to check into their backgrounds and find out a little about them. Most of the time coaches are people from LaFayette who everyone knows.

Councilwoman Smith said Community Council has separate liability insurance. How would this work if there was an issue with a coach, are they covered?

David Murray believes this would go through the town. That is one of the reasons he has brought it to the Board's attention.

Tom Chartrand said they are also covered under workmen's compensation. A list of the coaches should be given to Mary Jo.

David Murray said the list should probably be submitted to Mary Jo before the season occurs. They are going through some training of the coaches on how to handle certain issues. This is a concern that they have to watch out for. He advised this is his last budget process. He doesn't know who will be taking over for him yet.

The Board took a short recess. They recessed at 8:41 p.m. and Supervisor Scammell called the meeting back to order at 9:00 pm.

LAFAYETTE FIRE DEPT.

Ken Neuman said their insurance was \$2,300 higher than what they were allowed in their budget last year which was \$1,700. One item they are afraid they will have to comply with is vehicle exhaust systems. OSHA is going to make them set up so if their vehicles are running in the building, there has to be an exhaust out. This will cost about \$60,000. If they get what they request of \$20,000, they will do what they can this year and more next year. The rest of the budget is about the same.

Supervisor Scammell asked if the building is almost paid off.

John Harper said after the first of the month's payment, there will be \$111,000 left on the mortgage.

Ken Neuman said they make a payment each month. The bank won't let them make a lump-sum payment of \$38,000 a year.

Supervisor Scammell asked what they have coming up in the capital reserve.

Ken Neuman said they have an engine coming up and 2 tankers. Unfortunately the engine and the 2 tankers are going to be high ticket items. It's within a 2-year period on the tankers.

Supervisor Scammell asked if this is engine 21.

Ken Neuman said yes. It's the engine stationed in Cardiff. This won't be that high of a ticket item as they won't be putting that big of an engine in there.

Supervisor Scammell said last year they proposed \$280,000 for it.

Ken Neuman said it would be a smaller type engine. This cost is as opposed to the \$400,000 engine in Station 1.

Councilman Bailey asked how many activations the Cardiff station responds to.

Ken Neuman said every time they ring out for LaFayette. They are looking to increase membership down there.

Larry Paige said membership has increased pretty dramatically. They are up about 9 people in the Cardiff area.

Councilman Paul asked if the Service Award Program has helped increase membership.

Ken Neuman said the hard part is to get the young people interested and get them to stay.

Larry Paige said they have started a Junior Firemen's Program which they have about 10 kids in that are in the 16-18 year-old range. He thinks the Service Award Program helps. It's great that there are firemen who have been around for a long time too.

Councilman Knapp asked what the Junior Firemen can do.

Larry Paige said they can clean the department and learn about what's going on. They can't actively respond to a call. They can assist after the call is over.

Jack Sutton believes they are average on membership coming in.

Councilman Paul asked how the ambulance works on the north part of the town in the Jamesville area.

Ken Neuman said Greg Hoxie can talk about this but he isn't here tonight.

Nunzio Vadala said he knows it goes down there as he's gone down a couple of times.

Ken Neuman said they are willing to go anywhere.

John Harper said if the LFD has trained personnel on, they respond.

Councilman Paul asked how much of the time the personnel is available.

John Harper said 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. but not every day. They do have one girl who is trying to work pretty much full-time for them now. They have one girl on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. There are two others working part-time for them. They have 4 and he believes there are 2 more applications on the way.

Jack Sutton believes either they cover Jamesville or they don't.

Ken Neuman said it's whoever is available. It's the same situation in LaFayette.

Larry Paige said they always have the mutual aide available. Their medics are paid medics.

John Harper said fire control always knows if LaFayette has the personnel on duty. They know when they dispatch LaFayette whether they need to call Rural Metro or not.

Tom Chartrand asked if we will see an increase in the numbers qualifying for the Service Award Program.

Jack Sutton said it will be a wash.

Tom Chartrand asked about the paid medics.

John Harper said they will be about the same too.

Ken Neuman said last year the Town Board and the L.F.D. discussed the budget. The Town Board came back with their proposal and that was pretty much what it was. They never got to justify what they asked for after that. He believes meetings should follow once the Town Board makes up its mind.

Supervisor Scammell explained the budget work session process.

Ken Neuman thinks they are pretty much in line. Motor fuel and heat are pretty much up in the air as to the cost. They don't know how many calls they will make. They can run the generator on natural gas or propane.

Supervisor Scammell said everything has gone up.

Ken Neuman said unfortunately with having paid medics, you have more use of the building.

Jack Sutton said the thing that really hit them was the raise in insurance.

Larry Paige said insurance now is kicking into full gear, especially after New York City. They have updated a lot of their equipment and they strive to do this. He believes people want the best service available when they need it. If they fall behind on technology, it takes forever to catch up. If the capital reserve isn't kept up-to-date, then they will fall behind in the technology.

Councilman Knapp asked about grants.

Larry Paige said they have applied for them. The last one they got was 5 years ago.

Councilman Bailey said he has been in touch with Congressman Walsh's office and requested funding available like Fabius and South Onondaga got. He was told the window will be reopening to apply. He would be glad to work with the LFD on this. Who should he contact in the department?

Ken Neuman said Jack Sutton would be the contact as he is the president.

Councilman Bailey said he would be willing to work with them but they would have to be the applicant. This funding is through FEMA. This application can be done on line.

Larry Paige said any help Councilman Bailey can give them would be appreciated.

Councilman Bailey said he talked to Greg Hoxie before about purchasing defibrillators, etc. If they can get grant money for this, he would say we should go for it.

Ken Neuman said Councilman Bailey can contact Jack Sutton or Greg Hoxie.

Councilman Paul asked if there is anybody in the Chief's Association that would help write these grants for the department.

Jack Sutton thinks Fabius got their funding with help from Nancy Lorraine Hoffman. She is the one who helped the LFD get their last grant.

Ken Neuman said if they look back through the years, their operating budget has been pretty much the same all the way through.

Councilman Paul asked what it was last year.

Tom Chartrand said it was \$271,500. The operating portion was \$166,500.

Larry Paige said he thinks where they usually take the hit is on the capital reserve.

Nunzio Vadala said they are about 1 year behind.

Larry Paige said if they have to put the purchases out a year or two, it will be critical.

Supervisor Scammell asked if they know how much they have in their capital reserve now.

John Harper said around \$107,000. It's in a CD.

Councilman Paul would think one of their priorities on the list would be the vehicle exhaust system. Why didn't they put it as an immediate part of the budget?

Larry Paige said they tried to put the vehicle exhaust system in there so they can do some of the work this year, some next year, etc. It will probably be mandatory in 3 years.

Ken Neuman said he would do his best to make sure that the \$20,000 would go towards the exhaust system. He thinks the total cost would be about \$56,000 for what they have to do. He expects then they will have to address Station 2. There are 8 doors at Station 1 and there's 1 door at Station 2.

Councilman Paul asked if this was based on square footage or per door.

Ken Neuman said it based on doors.

Councilman Paul asked about the \$25,000 in Buildings and Grounds.

Ken Neuman said they discussed this and he can't come up right now with what they are going to do with it.

Jack Sutton said a new roof and the exhaust system.

Ken Neuman said the roof needs a little repair. When they put it on, they used a different type of seal for the overlays so they have decided they will go through and take care of the whole roof which is about \$6,000.

Councilman Paul asked if any part of the vehicle exhaust system would be part of the Building and Grounds.

Ken Neuman said it could be.

Councilor Knapp asked about equipment.

Ken Neuman said gear is firemen in full gear. It's very expensive. They aren't sure what the insurance will be. They aren't even sure if \$23,000 will be enough.

Councilman Paul asked if the chief has a separate budget or if he takes what he needs out of this.

Ken Neuman said when the chief needs something, he comes to the Board and tells them what he needs unless it's an emergency purchase.

Jack Sutton said the members have the final say.

Ken Neuman said once the Board decides they can afford it, it goes to the department for voting.

Supervisor Scammell asked how much the imaging camera cost.

Nunzio Vadala said approximately \$10,500.

Supervisor Scammell asked how far away they can see with it.

Larry Paige wasn't sure if it's 50' or 100'. It also tells the temperature. If you were lost in the woods, it would pick up your body temperature and help them find you.

Councilwoman Smith asked if there is training involved in using it.

Larry Paige said all you do is push the on button and look at the screen. They taught him how to use it in about 10 minutes. They would love to have anyone stop in on a Monday night and see it.

Councilman Paul asked if when they go buy a new vehicle, do they ever ask the manufacturer to make a donation of these imaging cameras?

Ken Neuman said he thinks they missed out because the cameras have only been around for the last 3 - 4 years.

Larry Paige thinks the people will go more towards the defibrillators. Companies are willing to donate them with their names on them.

Councilman Bailey asked how Rescue 1 is working out.

Ken Neuman said very good.

Councilwoman Smith asked why the cost for the OSHA physical has doubled. Is it because membership has increased or have the requirements changed?

Ken Neuman said they have new people coming in and they are required to have them before they can go into a fire. OSHA keeps putting on more and more requirements but doesn't offer any money to help pay for them.

Councilwoman Smith asked if they contract with someone around here for the physicals.

Ken Neuman said right now the Health Center is doing them but they don't know if they will be using them next year. They are trying to keep their business in town.

Councilman Knapp moved and Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion for the Town Board to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion passed unanimously.

The Town Board went into Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. and Supervisor Scammell called the Special Town Board Budget Meeting back to order at 9:38 p.m.

Councilmen Knapp moved and Paul seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

The Special Town Board Budget Meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly
Town Clerk