

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting Special Budget Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on September 25, 2006 at 4:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the LaFayette Commons Office Building at 2577 Route 11 in the Town of LaFayette

Present: Gregory Scammell, Supervisor  
David Knapp, Councilman  
Thomas Bailey, Councilman  
William McConnell, Councilman  
Adrian Shute, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

Others Present: Leon Cook, Highway Superintendent  
John Greeley, Highway Dept. Superintendent  
Tom Chartrand, Bookkeeper  
Jack Sutton, LFD  
Nunzio Vadala, LFD  
John Harper, LFD  
Greg Hoxie, LFD  
Connie Foot, Library  
Janine Baker, Library  
Katie Whitney, Library  
Phyllis Olmsted, Library

Supervisor Scammell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.  
The Town Clerk took the Roll. Councilman Knapp arrived 4:40 p.m. and all present.

**Highway Dept. – Leon Cook and John Greeley**

Leon said this is the third budget he has done for 2007. Originally he had 10 miles of road to oil and stone and cut it back to 7 miles. He has taken out some of the oiling and stoning. The big problem with his budget is oil and stone. It is \$2,802 more right now than it was when he did the 2006 budget. It's \$10,662/mile right now. He used to do 9 miles of oil and stone each year. He went to a better oil and high-friction stone so he cut it from 9 miles to 7 miles. This is what they are proposing for 2007. The total cost will be \$74,634. The piping and run-a-crush will stay about the same.

Councilman McConnell asked on the 5-Year Plan, does that cover every mile of road they are responsible for? Are all the roads he is required to maintain on it?

John Greeley said no. You have to pick and choose the roads you have to do. They can't do everything.

Councilman McConnell confirmed the roads that are done are based on need.

Leon said yes.

Supervisor Scammell asked what the high-friction stone is.

Leon said that means the stone is hard and wears better. They don't break off as easy when the snowplow hits them.

Councilman McConnell said he won't hit a road every 3 years then.

Leon said no, not with the 7 miles a year plan. He said gas and diesel is up \$6,800 from last year. On the diesel, they burn 12,600 gal/year and if you figure \$2.40/gallon, it's \$30,240 just for diesel for the year. The \$147,934 is for general repairs. This is \$6,370 more. Contractual is \$110,468. Equipment repairs stay the same.

\$153,216 is for personnel for snow removal. Salt, sand and fuel for snow removal is \$72,400. He only put the increase in on this for what we will get from the county. We got \$117,600 last year from the county for plowing. This year we are getting \$121,128.

Councilman Shute asked if the deal with the state figures into the snow plowing budget.

Leon said he figured that in. Every year we put the sand and salt up for this fall and through April. This is out of the 2006 money. This year is going to have to be for the fall of 2007. We will have to be putting sand and salt up for next year.

Under Garage Expenses, the only one he increased was garbage because the rate increased.

Clean-Up Days will stay the same.

Councilman Knapp asked how we came out.

Leon said the best we ever have.

Tom Chartrand said we spent \$5,018.

Leon said we won't be getting a new snow contract this year. The one we have is a 3-year contract.

Tom Chartrand said we don't have to renegotiate next year either. It's through April 2008.

Leon Cook said each year there's a 3% increase.

Councilman McConnell asked when Leon talks about contractual expenses, what kind of things does this cover?

Leon said it pays for diesel fuel and gas, sand and salt, etc.

Councilman Knapp said basically everything other than people or equipment.

Leon said yes.

Councilman McConnell asked on the road work payroll and snow work payroll, what percentage increase is that from last year.

Tom Chartrand said it is a 4 % total budget increase.

Councilman McConnell said it's about a 4 % increase across the board. He asked what Leon's highest priority in the budget is this year.

Leon said they want to purchase a used paver. The dump box is removed from the 2007 budget. If they can get the three-quarter ton pickup all right, but if not they aren't worried about it. The paver is quite old.

Tom Chartrand said the paver is a 1964.

John Greeley said the paver is actually a converted tractor.

Councilman McConnell asked Leon if he had more money in the budget, how many more miles of road would he do?

Leon said he has it figured out that the 7 miles a year the way they are doing it with the better oil and stone they can get by. We can get by doing the 7 miles every year.

What is really going to help with the paving is the grant money. There is a local share we must come up with to get the grant money.

Councilman Knapp asked Tom Chartrand about the revenue.

Tom said in 2005 it was \$254,435, in 2006 it was \$155,715 and in 2007 it is projected to be \$165,000. In 2005 we replaced a big truck and brought in \$26,000 for sale of the old truck and the miscellaneous transfer of \$58,000 shows the extra money we put into the Reserve that year. The town also received \$19,000 from FEMA that year.

Councilman Knapp asked if that includes the grant money from Senator DeFrancisco.

Tom Chartrand said that money probably won't come in until next year so it won't show up on this year's budget as a revenue item.

Leon said you have to do the work before you get the money.

Councilman McConnell said 2 years ago he and Leon walked through the Highway Garage. Has he sat down and thought about the next highway building or site yet?

Leon said they have thought about it. That would be a big expense. He thought for the town taxpayers, when the LFD pays off its building that would be the time the Highway should think about putting up a building. He thinks we need to think about where we will put it. He kind of likes the lot this side of the cemetery on Route 11. LaFayette Pipeline owns it. He thinks we should be thinking about procuring that property or some property. He doesn't think putting a building at the landfill is feasible.

Councilman Shute said actually the lot going up for auction by the auto auction might be considered. It's to the north of the auto auction.

Leon said he hasn't thought too much about it yet.

Councilman Bailey asked if we have a hard winter, is there a way to lock into the price of the sand in advance?

Leon said we always get our salt and sand before freezing weather. It has to be put up and mixed ahead of time. He said we have never run low.

There were no further questions or comments.

### **LaFayette Public Library – Connie Foote, Janine Baker, Katie Whitney, Phyllis Olmsted**

Connie Foote said they met a couple of weeks ago. Minimum wage is going up to \$7.15/hour.

Councilman McConnell asked if the increase under books is due to the cost of books going up or an increase in purchases.

Connie said the cost of books is generally going up. The other major item that is going up is the audios and DVD's. That is their biggest increase in circulation.

Councilman McConnell asked if most of the books they purchase are to replace old books or buy new ones.

Janine Baker said usually to purchase new ones.

Councilman McConnell asked how they determine what new books to purchase.

Connie said it's a combination of knowing what people want, what the school needs, etc.

Councilman McConnell asked if they ever cross-reference with the school on what they need, etc.

Janine Baker said they have tried but have not had a lot of success. They hear more from the patrons.

Connie Foote said Grimshaw is better than the High School. Scott has tried to work with both schools. It's very difficult to get the reading lists from the schools. Communication is not always as much as they would like it to be.

Councilman Knapp noted on state retirement we went down.

Tom Chartrand said our total bill went down about \$4,000. We also had a couple of Tier 1 people retire.

Councilman Bailey noted what we made in state retirement we lost in social security.

Tom said we are doing quite well on employee insurance.

Audio books were discussed.

Phyllis Olmsted said audio books are another reason readership is down.

Connie said she does a lot of her work online.

Supervisor Scammell noted the fines are down this year.

Councilman Knapp asked if we usually get \$4,000.

Tom Chartrand said we don't actually see the fine money. The library cuts us a check each year for \$4,000.

Councilman McConnell said he is working on the insurance of the building right now. He asked about the library insurance.

Tom said the town pays for their contents insurance through the general budget of the town.

Councilman Knapp confirmed that on the 990 preparation we are all straight.

Connie believes so.

Councilman Knapp just wants to be sure we don't run into the crossing years again.

Councilman McConnell asked what their filing date is as they are not-for-profit.

Connie said it's no different. He gives them an April 15<sup>th</sup> date then an October 15<sup>th</sup> date, etc. She hopes we are not getting charged for late filing fees as it's not their fault because the information is turned over in time.

Tom Chartrand said there could be penalties.

Connie said she tries to keep on top of this.

Tom said last year \$2,805 was paid for the library contents insurance policy. He believes this just covers the books. He thinks the computers, etc. are under the building insurance. It was \$2,573 the year before so it looks like it's creeping up.

Janine Baker asked if this includes the rebate they get back.

Tom said no.

Councilman Knapp asked if there is fundraisers planned.

Connie said probably just the normal stuff. Scott built shelves in the foyer which work quite well in moving the books.

Janine said sometimes they can bring in about \$30/week from books put on the shelves that people purchase.

Councilman McConnell asked what isn't in the budget that is a large expense that they wish they could afford.

Connie said they are still working on putting some more comfortable chairs in the library. There isn't a lot of floor space downstairs. They are still thinking of trying to expand floor space. The two large items are materials and salary. You like to have the materials and pay your staff. They like to present story time and good programs for the youngsters and adults.

Janine Baker said if they got a windfall, she would want more books.

Connie said one thing Scott is working on is their Xerox machine. It really needs to be replaced. They are looking at replacing it. She doesn't know if they will buy or rent one.

Councilman McConnell asked if they have an estimated cost for it.

Janine Baker said Scott does. He is looking into whether it's cheaper to buy or lease one.

Councilman McConnell asked if the money made through the copier is totally theirs.

Janine said they get a small percentage but they don't have to purchase any of the paper, etc.

Councilman McConnell asked if Scott could email this information to the Board.

Connie said he is away this week but she will have him send the Board the information he has.

There were no further questions or comments.

### **LaFayette Fire Department – Jack Sutton, Nunzio Vadala, Greg Hoxie, John Harper**

Greg Hoxie said they are basically proposing the same as last year with 2 changes. In heat they are increasing it by \$2,000. Electricity is another \$2,000 increase. They are increasing the Capital Reserve by \$5,000. This is a total increase over last year's budget of \$9,000. The total budget is \$340,000.

Councilman McConnell noted electricity has gone from \$14,000 to \$18,000 to \$20,000.

Greg Hoxie said yes and they are anticipating it going up a little more which is why they increased this item.

John Harper said they have been within \$1,500 of what they budget for this. He said they have propane, gas and electric heat.

Councilman Knapp asked what areas are heated with electricity.

John said the offices. The big meeting room and truck bays are propane which is electric fired. The generator is propane.

Councilman Knapp asked how often they kick it on.

John said once a week for 20 minutes.

Supervisor Scammell asked where they get their vehicle fuel from.

Jack Sutton said up to the corner.

Supervisor Scammell asked if they get a discount.

Greg Hoxie said they pay pump price less the tax. He had done some research on another system which he is going to bring before their Board tomorrow night. It's the same system the State Police are using.

Councilman McConnell asked if the paving of their grounds up there was out of this years budget.

Jack Sutton said part of it was from the budget but the extra money they made from the Apple Festival was put in for this.

Councilman Knapp said there is a truck being built right now.

Nunzio Vadala said it's an engine.

Councilman McConnell asked if the money to purchase this truck is in the Capital Reserve now and they will be starting over again.

Greg Hoxie said yes.

Discussion took place regarding the engine this wild replace. The old truck will probably be sold to some place in the Midwest.

Councilman McConnell asked if they have the same 20-year replacement regulations.

Greg Hoxie said this isn't a regulation. It's a strong suggestion.

Supervisor Scammell asked who they get their insurance through.

They said Reagan Agency.

Jack Sutton said they are getting some other bids this year.

Supervisor Scammell asked about the generator if there were a power outage.

Greg Hoxie said the generator runs off natural gas. If natural gas were to run out, they would switch over to propane.

Supervisor Scammell asked if they had any idea how long the generator could operate.

Greg Hoxie said he doesn't know. Nobody has ever asked this.

John Harper thinks it could last at least a couple of days.

Councilman McConnell said this is the third budget he has looked at where the training section of the budget has stayed the same. Are they usually under or over budget in this area?

Greg Hoxie said they are entering into the training time now. They purchase what they can afford for training based on the budget.

Councilman McConnell asked what kind of decision making process they will use to decide where the new engine will go.

They advised it will be a membership decision.

Greg Hoxie said they are looking at it as the new apparatus should be at the facility that has the most personnel. Typically the new stuff goes to Station 1 and whatever is currently at Station 1 is moved down to Station 2.

Nunzio Vadala said the membership has a say. Protocol has always been that the new apparatus goes to Station 1.

Councilman McConnell asked if they have a year-by-year record of which station goes to what calls and how many calls each station goes to.

Greg Hoxie said he does have the information and within the next couple of months he might have this information available. He thinks at least 80% of the responses are out of Station 1.

Supervisor Scammell asked about active members this year in comparison to prior years.

Greg Hoxie thinks it's about the same. There's between 52 and 54 members.

Supervisor Scammell asked if there is a difficulty in getting volunteers.

Greg Hoxie thinks they are doing O.K. the training has gotten a lot more intense. Councilman Knapp said the training requirements have gotten more stringent and made it much more of a business.

Nunzio Vadala said the EMT requirement use to be 20 hours and now it's much more.

Greg Hoxie said it's at least 120 hours now.

Jack Sutton said you have to go back for a refresher course every 3 years.

Greg Hoxie said it's 40 hours. He said this year they got a grant from the DEC and bought 9 new backpacks and water carriers.

Councilman McConnell said there is \$73,000 which is in the town budget which isn't reflected in their budget. Do they include this in their budget?

Nunzio Vadala said they try to explain this to the residents too.

Councilman McConnell said in reality, their total budget request is \$411,200 rather than just the \$340,700 requested. He wanted to know if the real budget number gets reviewed to the members at the LFD.

Greg Hoxie said they do now.

Councilman McConnell said in their budget already went up \$15,000 due to the town passing their Service Award increase.

John Harper said the voters agreed to this program up to \$58,000.

Councilman McConnell said he isn't disputing this. he just wanted the department to realize their budget already went up \$15,000 without the LFD even asking for it.

John Harper asked the overall percentage increase from last year.

Tom Chartrand said this year it's a little different because we had a reval and town-wide went up 20%. Their budget shows a 14% decrease but in reality he would say it went up 6 %.

John Harper said it seems like every year the LFD comes to the Board and the LFD budget per thousand has been going down every year and sooner or later it's going to catch up with them.

Councilman Knapp said in the past, the LFD gave the Board a list of make, model and year of equipment to be replaced. Could they do this again this year?

Greg Hoxie doesn't think much has changed but he will do an update for the Board.

Councilman Knapp said he would like the anticipated replacement date and cost too. He would appreciate this and it would help him.

Supervisor Scammell asked if this is the last building payment.

The LFD wasn't sure.

Supervisor Scammell asked them to let him know if this is the last year or when the last year for payment will be.

Councilman Bailey asked when they anticipate to replace the ambulance next year, will everything inside it be new?

Greg Hoxie said yes. Depending on the expiration date, some of the items may be transferred over to it.

Supervisor Scammell asked if the overall cost for the new engine will be about \$400,000.

Greg Hoxie said it shouldn't go over \$360,000.

Supervisor Scammell asked the cost of a new ambulance these days.

Greg Hoxie said about \$100,000.  
Councilman McConnell confirmed it's Engine 21 they are replacing.  
Greg Hoxie said yes.  
Councilman McConnell asked which one will be sold.  
Greg Hoxie said Engine 21.  
Nunzio said the numbers stay the same.  
Greg Hoxie said the first number is the station and the second number is the truck number.  
Jack Sutton said when the Town Board makes a determination, they need to let the members know.  
There were no further questions or comments.  
The Special Budget Meeting ended at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly  
Town Clerk

Approved 10/17/06