

Minutes of the Special Budget Town Board Meeting held by the La Fayette Town Board on September 14, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the La Fayette Commons Office Building at 2577 Route 11 in the Town of La Fayette.

Present: Supervisor Gregory Scammell
Thomas Bailey, Councilman
William Mc Connell, Councilman
Adrian Shute, Councilman

Absent: David Knapp, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

Others Present: Thomas Chartrand, Bookkeeper
Kevin Gilligan, Town Attorney
Leon Cook, Highway Superintendent
Doug Scholes, Dep. D.C.O.
John Harper, L.F.D.
Ken Jerome, L.F.D.
Greg Hoxie, L.F.D.
Mike Shaffer, Att. L.F.D.

Supervisor Scammell called the Special Meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

John Harper said they are asking for \$436,300. This is an increase from last year including the \$50,000 they didn't get and an increase of \$5,000 for maintenance. They are basically asking for a 1% increase in the operating budget. They are asking for \$105,000 for their Capital Reserve.

Supervisor Scammell asked for backup on the \$105,000.

John Harper said it's for the Capital Reserve.

Supervisor Scammell asked if there's something that substantiates this.

John Harper said that is the amount they put in every year.

Supervisor Scammell asked the status of the \$50,000 grant.

John Harper said the checks are all still frozen by the state. Until the governor unfreezes the checks, who knows. It's going on 2 years that they haven't had the money sitting in a C.D. earning interest.

Supervisor Scammell asked Tom Chartrand if he knew anything about this.

Tom Chartrand said he heard some of the accounts are frozen but some of the multi-model checks have gone through.

Supervisor Scammell asked for any questions from the Board.

Councilor Bailey asked if there is any proposed pay increase for the medical staff.

Ken Jerome said 2%.

Greg Hoxie said that this should be offset by the 5% increase from the billings.

Councilor McConnell said the \$436,000 is their budget minus the Service Awards and Workers Comp. which is approximately another \$70,000.

John Harper said that is correct. They have 24-7 coverage and sometimes both ambulances are on the road. Sometimes Jamesville, Tully or Pompey help out.

Councilor Shute asked what this does to the capital improvements.

Greg Hoxie said it will put them right where they were.

Councilor Shute said the last time we talked they had done some work on the tanker.

John Harper said both tankers.

Greg Hoxie said some work was done to extend them out for some time. The maintenance will go up a little because of this which is minor compared to replacing the whole thing.

Councilor Shute confirmed the \$436,300, wouldn't be considered an annual amount.

John Harper said next year it would be back to \$105,000.

Supervisor Scammell asked what their fiscal year is.

Greg Hoxie said from March 1 to February 28.

Councilor Bailey asked if they could provide any data regarding insurance revenues from emergency calls.

Greg Hoxie said he can probably provide this. He will look into it.

Councilor Bailey said he would like to know what money actually came through in claims billing.

Councilor McConnell thinks this is important to know.

Greg Hoxie said he will try to find this out.

Councilor McConnell said when the Board was in agreement with going with medics a couple of years ago, it was with the thought that revenue would come in from this. You are generating a business within your corporation and if it generates more than the \$33,000 to pay out for employees as well as insurance, he would hope this would help lower their budget request.

John Harper believes oxygen and other supplies come out of the ambulance account.

Councilor McConnell said he would appreciate it if the Board knew this information. The town made the investment and at that time and he asked what would happen if they make more than they expend.

Councilor Bailey said the Board wants to know just what is coming in. He would just like to know what they are clearing.

Greg Hoxie said he can give them the total but doesn't have it split down for cardiac, etc.

Councilor McConnell said their 990's don't show what is expended as well as what is taken in.

Greg Hoxie said he can give the total income to the Board tonight but doesn't have the breakdown of where it's taken in from.

Councilor McConnell said he would like it for the calendar year.

Supervisor Scammell said the fire dept. calendar year would work fine.

Kenny Jerome said they can do it from March 1 to February 28.

Mike Shaffer recommended they do it for the fire dept. fiscal year as well as the calendar year of January 1 to December 31.

Supervisor Scammell asked what they did for physicals.

Greg Hoxie said they do a respirator test. They pay \$75 a crack for this. A lot of people that are having them done are having their insurance companies pick up the cost which is good for the fire dept.

Supervisor Scammell asked if there is any equipment they are planning on getting this year.

Greg Hoxie said they are holding back on that right now. They have to get some turnout gear, boots and helmets that need to be replaced. They are looking at replacing some items next year.

Supervisor Scammell asked if they still have propane for heating.

Greg Hoxie said yes.

Supervisor Scammell asked if there is any merit in changing over to natural gas.

John Harper said he is in the process of filling out some forms to have someone come out and go through the building to see if there is a way to save on energy.

Tom Chartrand asked for the estimated number of qualifying members for the Service Awards.

Greg Hoxie said the same as last year. Maybe it will be down 2 or 3. It will be about 38.

Tom Chartrand said in order to compute the Workers Comp., he needs to know the total payroll for their paid staff.

Greg Hoxie will get this information to him.

Supervisor Scammell said their budget request will be put into the total package and the Board will have budget work sessions. The Board will look at the total budget requests and decide what the appropriate adjustments that need to be made are.

Tom Chartrand said we will be meeting again on the 22nd with the Highway Dept.

Supervisor Scammell asked who they want the Board to communicate with when they know something about the budget.

John Harper said Mike Shaffer.

Councilor McConnell confirmed under the Service Awards there isn't anyone reaching entitlement age this year.

John Harper said that is correct.

Councilor McConnell would recommend in January they give the Board a list of names they post as active members with their points so the Board can review it. He sent John Harper a letter last week about the Apple Run. He asked if John had gotten it.

John Harper said yes.

Councilor McConnell said he would like them to do the same thing they did last year. The only difference is the 5k which is added this year.

Supervisor Scammell confirmed the fire dept. is working on a timeline for equipment replacement.

Greg Hoxie said yes. It hasn't been completed yet. As soon as they get this done he will get the Board a copy.

Tom Chartrand asked Councilor's McConnell and Bailey for their budget requests.

Councilor McConnell said he will drop his off tomorrow. There's no change.

Discussion took place regarding contacting the comptroller's office to find out the status of the \$50,000.

The Special Budget Meeting ended at 6:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly

Town Clerk

Adopted 9/28/09