

Hope Budget Committee Minutes for Wednesday July 17, 2024

Committee Members present: Bill Pearse John Jensen, Brian Powers, Wendy Pelletier
Others present: Samantha Mank, Sarah Smith, Wayne Luce, Crystal Robinson, Charlie Weidman,
Clarence Keller, Jonathan Powers, Kate Clark, Danielle Fagone, Tim Lock

Call to Order: Meeting was called to Order by Bill Pearse at 6:32

Minutes: Motion to accept March 19th Minutes by John, Brian seconded, motion passed 4-0

Motion to accept July 15th Minutes by Brian Powers, John seconded, motion passed 4-0

Budget Presentations of the Public Safety Cost Center

Fire Department: there are currently 23 Volunteer Fire Fighters. The Fire Chief is requesting a \$2,000 increase for the volunteer fire fighters

Fire Department Equipment

Fire Truck Replacement (Including the FD Reserve Accounts)

Fire Truck Repair/Maintenance

The Fire Chief is requesting no stipend increase for FY 2025 and no change to the EMA Director stipend.

Animal Control:

Ambulance Services: Northeast Mobile Health

NEMHS sent a memo with a Contract Modification Proposal in which the rate for each community increased substantially. (an increase of almost \$ 65,000 for the town.) NEMHS understands that the Towns may refuse to fund the increase, however they will not be able to continue providing ambulance service without the contract adjustment.

Hope Elementary School

The total cost of the operations of the Elementary School has increased this year by just over \$26,500. Last 2 years surplus cash being used to offset taxes has been \$147,219 and \$150,000 respectively. Also of mention, in the last few years the number of students has been declining.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at **9:30**