

**MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016
HOPE TOWN OFFICE
6:30 P.M.**

Note: These minutes may not be considered an official public record until such time as they are read and accepted by the Board of Selectmen.

Board Members Present: Jim Annis, David Bosken, Chris Pinchbeck, Wendy Pelletier, Brian Powers Jr.,

Budget Committee Members Present: Bill Pearse Jr., John Jensen, Bill Jones, Ted Steele

Others Present: Jon Duke, Clarence Keller, Fred Holbrook

I. Call the Meeting to Order

Brian Powers called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

II. Unfinished Business

III. FY 2017 Municipal Budget Review

a. Fire Department

Chief Keller presented a copy of his budget for review by the Board and members of the Budget Committee. The Public Safety budget proposed is \$95,602 which is down 2% over last year. Chief Keller noted on a question of his salary line that the requests on his time have continuously increased over several years, so while he was given a salary increase last year, it is less than what he had proposed. The equipment line increased by \$1,600 due to a change in procedure in having an outside vendor conduct testing of all of the hose lines. In the past, the department had done that testing in house, but with the increased amount of liability, Chief Keller did not feel comfortable with his firefighters taking on that responsibility.

b. Capital Reserve – Fire Department Related Budget Lines

There were three lines in Capital Reserve related to the fire department which Chief Keller spoke to the Board on. In accordance with the capital improvement plan as presented to the Selectmen in the Fall, Chief Keller proposed putting aside \$30,000 for the fire truck replacement reserve, \$8,500 for the equipment reserve, and \$5,000 for South Hope Fire Station reserve. Chief Keller noted that the capital improvement plan calls for the department to move from 2 tanker trucks to 1 larger tanker truck in the next 2-3 years. The \$8500 for the equipment reserve would allow the department to set aside enough funds over the next five years for all of the expected equipment purchases made over that period of time. The station reserve does have some funds left in from the current fiscal year, but replacing the ceiling at the station has yet to be started.

c. Ambulance

The proposed Ambulance budget is \$8,100, and due to the overwhelming support shown in the straw poll, North East Mobile Health Services is budgeted as the sole provider of ambulance service in Hope. \$8,100 is 13% less than last year's budget and more than

\$1,200 less than what was expected to be the price if Hope continued to use Union Ambulance and North East Mobile Health Services.

d. Animal Control

The Animal Control budget is proposed to be \$5,536, which is 24% less than last year. Jon explained that with a year of experience under the Town's belt, we can better predict the costs associated with having our own animal control department.

e. General Assistance

The proposed General Assistant budget is \$2000, which is unchanged from last year.

VIII. Adjournment

Wendy Pelletier moved to adjourn at 9:35 pm. David Bosken seconded. **Motion passed 5-0.**