

**TOWN OF WESTBROOK BOARD OF FINANCE
BUDGET HEARING- SPECIAL MEETING
MULVEY MUNICIPAL CENTER – ROOM A
MARCH 23, 2016 6:30PM**

The Westbrook Board of Finance Budget Hearing was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016. In attendance were Chairman Paul Connelly, George Pytlik, Gary Gavigan, John Leake, Tony Cozza and Rick Westbrook. Also in attendance were Noel Bishop, First Selectman, Mary Labaddia, Selectman, John Hall, Selectman, Wayne Buck, Resident State Trooper, Dave Russell, Harbor Patrol, Bonnie Palermo, Police Advisory, Bob Hagemeister, Fire Commissioner, Mike Jenkins, Fire Department, Peter Krauss, Fire Department, Gregg Prevost, Fire Department, John Palermo, Fire Department, Donald Izzo, Emergency Management, Kelley Frazier, Clerk, Andrew Urban, Director of Finance Absent:

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Connelly at 6:30p.m. Mr. Connelly led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Westbrook Board of Finance unanimously **VOTED** to move Police Advisory/Traffic up in the agenda.

DEPARTMENT 0210-2106 POLICE ADVISORY/TRAFFIC

Upon a motion made by George Pytlik and seconded by Tony Cozza it was:

RESOLVED: Reduce the Equipment Maintenance by \$381 and to unanimously appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$4,000) for Department 0210-2106 Police Advisory/Traffic.

DEPARTMENT 0201 PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mr. Westbrook questioned the increase in services. The increase is due to the two hurricanes which changed the percentage of what we paid from Valley Shore. Street lights increased due to a rate increase. Mr. Westbrook noted that we are not able to table this item because an explanation is not immediately available.

Upon a motion made by George Pytlik and seconded by Tony Cozza it was:

RESOLVED: to decrease Account #2011.0228.5 Communications by \$3,636.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Pytlik agreed to rescind his motion

Upon a motion made by Gary Gavigan and seconded by Tony Cozza to table this budget until more information is available.

Discussion ensued. This budget needs additional information but will this will not be available until after the budgeting process. Mr. Urban read a letter from Valley Shore discussing the paramedic program and the need to charge the towns for these services. Previously the town has not paid for these services. Mr. Urban suggested having Middlesex Hospital staff present to the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen jointly to discuss the charges.

Mr. Gavigan and Mr. Cozza agreed to rescind their motion.

Upon a motion made by Tony Cozza and seconded by John Leake, the Westbrook Board of Finance unanimously **VOTED** to decrease Communications by \$3,636 in Department 0201 Public Safety.

Mr. Westbrook noted that these are policy related issues and the Board of Finance should not be making policy changes. He and Mr. Leake stated that they are not comfortable with this. Mr. Bishop agreed that this is a policy issue. The state mandates that we provide this level of service but state funding is not available. We have a proposed agreement that we can decline at any time. This is cheaper than other paramedic services.

Upon a motion made by Tony Cozza and seconded by Rick Westbrook it was:

RESOLVED: Unanimously to appropriate the sum of FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY SEVEN THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED SIXTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$487,665) for Department 0201 Public Safety.

DEPARTMENT 0210-2103 HARBOR PATROL

Upon a motion made by George Pytlik and seconded by Rick Westbrook it was:

RESOLVED: Unanimously to appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE DOLLARS (\$12,840) for Department 0210-2103 Harbor Patrol.

POLICE SERVICES DEPARTMENT 0210:

Mr. Urban discussed the budget. It was agreed to keep the Trooper Contract line item as is.

Upon a motion made by George Pytlik and seconded by Rick Westbrook it was:

RESOLVED: to appropriate the full budget to Police services.

Discussion ensued regarding how constables are paid and shift coverage. Mr. Buck noted that we are short constables. We do not need as much coverage during the winter months. The State Police is in charge of the constables. Mr. Bishop suggested that a committee will be formed to address police staffing for Westbrook.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Westbrook Board of Finance unanimously **VOTED** to move the question.

Upon a motion made by George Pytlik and seconded by Rick Westbrook it was:

RESOLVED: Unanimously to appropriate the sum of EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY ONE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO DOLLARS (\$831,372) for Department 0210 Police Services.

FIRE SERVICES

Mr. Jenkins discussed the reductions which occurred in the budget which he was not aware of. These were made due to a variance analysis done by Mr. Urban for all the departments. Mr. Jenkins noted that the \$6,848 reduction is supposed to be \$6,000. Mr. Hagemeister stated that this is a very responsible budget. He feels that the equipment maintenance should not be reduced. Mr. Izzo requests that funds are returned to the communication line item for preventative maintenance.

Upon a motion made by Tony Cozza and seconded by George Pytlik the Westbrook Board of Finance unanimously **VOTED** to increase \$1,000 in Equipment Maintenance and to increase communications equipment \$848.

There was a discussion regarding the bondable items and how to pay for the computers on the fire trucks. These are approximately \$2,500 per computer.

Upon a motion made by Tony Cozza and seconded by Rick Westbrook to remove \$6,300 from Technology and put it in the bond issue.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Cozza and Mr. Westbrook agreed to rescind their motion.

This budget will be voted on when additional information is received.

DEPARTMENT 0211.2115 FIRE MARSHAL:

Mr. Hagemeister discussed the additional needs for the coming year to meet state statute requirements. He is requesting \$39,000 additional funds to meet these requirements.

Upon a motion made by Rick Westbrook and seconded by Tony Cozza to add \$39,000 to part time payroll line.

The Board of Selectmen has not approved these additional funds. Mr. Gavigan feels that this is a large amount of money and should be approved first by the Board of Selectmen. Discussion ensued regarding whether the Board of Finance has the authority to do this. This will be discussed with the Town Attorney. There will be a special Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, March 28th to discuss this.

Mr. Westbrook and Mr. Cozza agreed to rescind the motion.

Upon a motion made by John Leake and seconded by Rick Westbrook the Westbrook Board of Finance unanimously **VOTED** to table this item until Board of Selectmen review on March 30th.

DEPARTMENT 0211.2116 FIRE COMMISSIONER:

Upon a motion made by Rick Westbrook and seconded by John Leake it was:

RESOLVED: Unanimously to appropriate the sum of (\$1,325) ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE DOLLARS to Fire Commissioner Department 0211.2116.

DEPARTMENT 0211.2117 FIRE SERVICES – OPEN BURNING OFFICIAL:

Upon a motion made by Rick Westbrook and seconded by John Leake it was:

RESOLVED: Unanimously to appropriate the sum of (\$1,000) ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS for Open Burning Official Department 0211.2117.

DEPARTMENT 0212 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Mr. Izzo discussed the part time payroll and his request for additional stipend money. Mr. Urban noted that this did not come up at the Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Izzo said that he is not being informed of the policies and procedures.

Upon a motion made by Rick Westbrook and seconded by John Leake the Westbrook Board of Finance unanimously **VOTED** to table the Emergency Management budget until after the Board of Selectmen review on Monday.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Kelley S. Frazier, Board Clerk