

**TOWN OF NORWELL
Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2017**

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2017 MAR -2 PM 1:41

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The Advisory Board was called to order at 7:00pm by Roger Hughes. Present were Susan Powell, Jacky McClean, Jane Stout, Amy Koch, Mark Maiellano, Ralph Gordon, Time Greene and Karen Reynolds. Also present was Town Administrator Peter Morin.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

No Minutes, Bills, Transfer Requests or Correspondence

ACTION ITEMS / BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Peter presented the budgets for the Fire Department and the Police Department.

1. **Fire Department** - Chief Andy Reardon gave an update about the state of the Fire Department before summarizing the budget. The Town employs 20 firefighters. Each one is trained and responsible for all positions on the engine and are certified EMTs. Fifteen have higher level skills and are certified paramedics. Two firefighters are certified mechanics. They perform routine maintenance and repair the engines as needed. The Department operates three primary engines and has two reserve engines. The fire truck that was purchased with Article funding in FY 16 has been delivered and will be on the road soon. The ambulance funded by an Article in FY 17 is in the last phase of construction, and it is anticipated to be on the road by May. The Department qualified for a Firefighter Safety Apparatus grant and purchased 24 self contained breathing apparatus with spare tank. The Department is asking for an increase to the Overtime line. Currently two firefighters are on medical leave for injuries, one firefighter is serving in the military and one is out on Family Leave. Chief Reardon has two requests including a Deputy Fire Chief, and one Capital request to replace the engine purchased in 2002. The Deputy Fire Chief is not part of the budget this year. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Town Administrator for the total budget amount of \$2,261,037 for the Fire Department. *Seconded and passed 9-0.*
2. **AMBULANCE** - Chief Reardon briefed the AB on this budget. The new ambulance will arrive in the next few weeks and should be running by May. The State is in the midst of writing new regulations that will set the ambulance rate at the Medicaid rate which is well below market rate. While insurance companies will benefit from these new rules, Towns and private ambulance services could see a decrease in ambulance revenues of 40%. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Town Administrator for the total budget amount of \$90,300 for Ambulance Services. *Seconded and passed 9-0.*
3. **Emergency Management** - This is a modest budget of \$11,500. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Town Administrator for the total budget amount of \$11,500 for Emergency Management. *Seconded and passed 9-0.*
4. **Regional Dispatch** - This Service has seen an increase in volume. When the Town entered into the Regional Dispatch Service, it was thought the Town would save money.

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This has not been the case. However, it did save the Town from having to invest in a new dispatch system when the new Police Station was built. Also, if one or two town join, Norwell would see actual savings. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Town Administrator for the total budget of \$456,124 for Regional Dispatch. *Seconded and passed 9-0.*

5. **Police Department** - After a summary of the last year at the Station, Chief Ted Ross reviewed the Police Department budget. The Department qualified for several grants to expand safety including digital speed sign installed by Cole School and RAD courses. In partnership with Hornstra Farms and Shields General Store, the Police handed out "safety citation" to kids in Town which they could exchange for ice cream. Four officers retired. The Department has three officers in training and will graduate in March. Chief Ross will hire one more officer from the four candidates qualified by the Civil Servants test. Since September, Officer Phelps has been the School Resource Officer serving the four schools in Norwell. This plan is well received and is a dynamic program that encourages positive relationships between the Police and School community. The Department is starting a K-9 program. Benefits of a K-9 Unit include assist in missing/lost children & seniors, armed suspects that have fled, enhanced officer safety, drug detection capabilities, de-escalation of critical incidents, public relations/demonstrations, officer retention/positive morale and with minimal impact on the budget. The K-9 and handler have 16 weeks of search training and 12 weeks of drug detection training. The initial start up cost is \$22,250. Most of these costs will be covered by the Norwell Veterinary Hospital. The Police Department will cover the remaining \$4,000 through fundraising. A road race is currently being organized. The increases to the budget are contractual obligations. The Department is asking the Capital Budget Committee for Tactical Body Armor including vests and helmets. Two cruisers will be converted one into an unmarked car and one outfitted for K-9 unit. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Town Administrator for the total budget of \$2,837,496 for the Police Department. *Seconded and passed 9-0.*

FUTURE MEETINGS

February 16, 2017 at 7:00pm

Adjourn - Motion made to Adjourn. *Seconded and passed 9-0.*



Roger Hughes, Chairman

