

Bennington Board of Selectmen
November 23, 2021 6:03 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: James Cleary, David Hardwick, David Foster

Chairman Cleary called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

Appointments: 6:00 Chief LePine – Chief LePine was present to review his proposed 2022 Budget. The proposed budget reviewed the following

- P/T budget is up \$6,000.00 to account for 1350 hours for Officer Milton, 1 other shift will be covered. LePine would like to hire a P/T female office, the uniform budget will be utilized for that in 2021, no need for an increase in 2022 for uniforms
- Gas is increased \$1,000.00 due to the rising cost of gasoline
- Prosecutor cost is down \$600.00
- Insurances are up due to two family plans and a 2.8% increase in healthcare plan costs
- Administrative Assistant increased \$500.00 due to additional cases and the need for additional time

Other items discussed there are three new radios still coming in 2021, the invoice is \$7,500.00. Chief LePine indicated he will turn back a large amount of funds at the end of the year. Selectmen will notice a large overage for the IMC Software, in the past this has always been paid late and he would like to get the 2021 contract paid in 2021 and remain current going forward. So the current budget will reflect payment of 2020 and 2021.

New Cruiser was discussed – the 2015 cruiser has 111,000 miles on it, the PD is due a new one in March. If we wait until March to order, we will not receive it until 2023. He would like to preorder a Tahoe now so we could get in line for the build. LePine stated that there have been problems with the Fords, therefore he believes a Tahoe for the same price is a better quality and will have better resale value. Discussion followed. Selectmen approved getting in line for the new cruiser to be prepared and pre-order it now. If the warrant article does not pass at Town Meeting, there is no penalty to the town if we cancel the order.

Minutes: Selectmen read and accepted minutes of November 16, 2021 as written

Financial: Payroll Register

A/P Register - Selectman Hardwick asked about the Advanced Paving invoice, it is more than the quote was for. Desauniers did pay \$3,750.00 towards their driveway apron, which offset the invoice. Matt will come in to the next meeting to discuss this difference.

Old Business:

New Business: VFW Rental – Jan. 16 – a member of the VFW has asked to use the VFW and would like the fee waived because she is a member of the post. Chairman Cleary will contact M. Frosch to see about getting a member list. This member will be allowed to use the VFW on January 16.

Budget Review: Selectmen reviewed and discussed the budget. They reviewed wages, insurance and several other items discussing options for budget decreases. Deb was instructed to have an insurance comparison and breakdown, they would like to know what the general fund balance for the board next week, as well as an updated budget.

With nothing further, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 6:00 pm.