



CARVER FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2019 MEETING

Present: Chairman Alan Germain, Kathryn Bandzul, Vice Chairman, William Duggan, Beth Sulger, John Cotter, Jr., Meg LaMay, Finance Director and Town Administrator Michael Milanoski. Absent: George Callahan. Also present: Marianne MacLeod, Recording Secretary.

Chairman Germain opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. He explained that there was a miscommunication with Area 58, which, unfortunately, resulted in the last meeting not being recorded.

Public Comment

None.

Presentation of budget's for Public Safety. Police, Fire, and EMS.

Mr. Thomas Walsh, EMS Chief, came before the Committee. He explained his Department is an advanced life-support ambulance service, with two ambulances. He read a prepared statement to Committee members. His budget is level-funded.

Mr. Milanoski expressed the value of Mr. Walsh's services to the Town of Carver, the fact that the level of protection for the Town is phenomenal and he is doing this without any taxpayer funds. It is also a dynamic department; due mostly to Mr. Walsh's constant overseeing of the department expenses.

Mr. Walsh added that he has two deputies as well as an operations officer and that it is a team effort throughout this Department.

Mr. Milanoski also explained that sometimes they assist other towns as well.

Mr. Walsh explained that there are public access AED's throughout the town. He reached out to Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital to request medical control and, unfortunately, they decided they would not give us medical control for public access AEDs. They would give medical control for Police & Fire Departments, but not public. They feel there is a liability for public access AED whereas someone untrained could use the device and there is no guarantee that someone using it is actually trained. The school system is searching right now for a doctor to support the school's AED program. This cannot be done without medical control so this is a work in progress. Mr. Germain asked what other towns do. Mr. Walsh said he is not sure. Mr. Germain asked if Tobey Hospital could be approached. Mr. Walsh said he will be checking with them.

Ms. Sulger may have a connection through her full-time job and she will look into seeing if there is someone that can help us.

Mr. Cotter made a Motion to accept the EMS operating budget and forward it to the Board of Selectmen for the town warrant, in the amount \$783,375.01, Mr. Duggan seconded, voted and passed 4-0-1. Ms. Bandzul is abstaining because her husband is an EMS member.

Chief Marc Duphily came before the Committee to discuss his budget. He read an overview of the past year. He has requested a level-funded budget. The numbers may change because they are in negotiations with the union. They are staffed at 14, have two officers in the academy, 4 sergeants, one administrative sergeant, one patrol sergeant to each shift and 10 police officers, one being a court officer and an SRO (student resource officer). They also take care of animal control through his department.

Mr. Germain asked if there was no money in the budget for a Deputy Chief. They are negotiating with the union and also negotiate the positions, including a deputy chief as well as a detective position for follow-up of calls.

Mr. Germain asked Chief Duphily if he could have his department any way he wanted, what would it be. Chief Duphily said he'd like to get to 20 officers. However, he explained that due to field training, putting on two officers at a time works.

Mr. Milanoski made mention that this year there were a few retirements and this has to be taken into account as to the number of people that can be trained. Also, being a small town, once past the contractual step raises, if you add, there will be cuts needed to balance the budget.

Mr. Germain explained that there is an objective to increase the number of positions in this Department. Mr. Germain thanked the Chief for the great job he does running the Department.

Mr. Cotter asked about capital requests. There will be one cruiser added this year. Mr. Cotter asked about using 4-wheel drive vehicles and/or drones for policing bogs. The Chief explained that they would like to get a vehicle to use for this type of policing; however, right now they are keeping cruisers on the road.

They still have the police boat and put it out on the weekends at the pond, to deal with boats, jet skis and the influx of people using the beaches.

Mr. Cotter asked the timing for the union contract. It expires on June 30th.

Ms. Bandzul asked about combining fire and police dispatch? Chief Duphily explained that public safety is in the building covering all three Departments. He feels that two dispatch areas are extremely valuable for the town. This is especially true when there are large storms. Ms. Bandzul asked about regional dispatch centers? The Chief said at the beginning it sounds good; however, there ends up being assessments as well as the fact of losing local control. There is

always a dispatcher in the police station 24/7. He feels right now they are doing this efficiently and would like to remain this way.

Mr. Duggan asked what the Chief's criteria were for wishing for 20 officers. Chief Duphily explained that he looks for calls of service per officer/per year. On average, there are 700-725 calls per year per officer. People call the police for many different areas of help and they respond. Public safety is expanded each year.

Ms. Bandzul made a Motion to accept the Police Department operating budget and forward it to the Board of Selectmen for the town warrant, in the amount of \$2,286,049.25, seconded by Ms. Sulger, voted and passed unanimously 5-0-0.

Chief Craig Weston of the Fire Department came before the Committee. He handed out a booklet to the members and gave a brief overview. He commended the other two Chiefs for their comradery in working together and the fact that they all share the same goals and he is very proud of this for the Town of Carver.

He gave an overview of the Department, where the budget is allocated and explained capital improvements.

In 2018 they had a 5.2 minute response time.

Ms. Bandzul also asked Chief Weston about combining dispatchers and using a regional service. Chief Weston believes the town runs unique systems in town. He believes in keeping control of your own community.

Mr. Milanoski shared that he worked for a town that joined a regional dispatch of four communities. There were growing pains to work out the bugs but it has become a fairly successful program. They were all full-time departments. In Carver, there are three departments and they are unique.

Mr. Duggan commented that \$17.56, which Chief Weston shared is the wage for the firefighters, is a very low wage for the work that they do.

Mr. Germain said again, that these three departments are run very well. He likes the fact that all three Chief works so well together.

Mr. Duggan asked how the rate is determined. Chief Weston said there is a Wage & Benefits Committee. They have a rewards program for time of service. He said he is 100% sure that no one does this for the money.

Mr. Duggan also asked about the water supply. Are the tankers already filled? Chief Weston explained that yes, there are filled tankers that go the actual fire scene while at the same time there is a team at the water source waiting for the empty tanker to come. At the fire scene, water

is put into a pool and then the tanker goes back to the water source. There are plenty of places throughout the town to get water, including cisterns and rivers, ponds, etc.

Mr. Milanoski said that the people protecting the townspeople have good equipment/infrastructure that they need to do their job.

Ms. Bandzul made a Motion to approve the Fire Department budget of \$673,315.80 to advance it to the Board of Selectmen for the Town warrant, seconded by Mr. Duggan, 4-0-1, with Ms. Sulger abstaining because her husband is a call firefighter.

Mr. Germain thanked all three Chiefs for attending tonight's meeting.

Continued discussion of the grant program for non-profit's.

Ms. Sulger pulled together some information from different grants that she has seen through the years to use as a starting point for putting together a program to screen grant requests. She reviewed the document with committee members and suggestions/changes were discussed. Mr. Germain said he'd like to continue the discussion at the next meeting, including finalizing the total amount and \$5,000 per grant and the wording for the vetting process for town meeting. Mr. Milanoski explained Town Counsel will work on the warrant for town meeting. Ms. Bandzul made a Motion to continue discussion at the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Duggan, voted and passed unanimous 5-0-0.

Continued discussion on the Green Community program and Stretch code adoption for town warrant.

Mr. Germain has asked Stephen Cole if he could get the current building inspector to give him a synopsis of how far apart the current building code and the stretch code are. Mr. Cotter suggested again to have someone who is pro and con for this program to come before the committee. Mr. Duggan said there are larger ramifications and they should keep this in mind. Mr. Cotter said we need to make this transparent and give all the information. Mr. Cotter made a Motion to table discussion until the next meeting, seconded by Ms. Bandzul, voted and passed unanimously 5-0-0.

Read and approve minutes of January 3, 2019 meeting.

Mr. Cotter made a Motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Ms. Bandzul; discussion – Mr. Germain would like to add to the minutes, that the meeting was not recorded, so Mr. Cotter changed his Motion to have the minutes accepted as amended, seconded by Ms. Bandzul, voted and passed unanimously 5-0-0.

Future meeting dates and time.

February 7th and February 21st – both at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Germain feels the School Committee could skip meeting with the Finance Committee as their budget is non-negotiable. Mr. Cotter feels a joint meeting should be done with all discussions of the school budget.

Mr. Milanoski suggested meeting with the School Committee first and then review the School Department budget.

Ms. Bandzul made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Cotter, voted and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne MacLeod
Recording Secretary