

FINANCE COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 14, 2024 4:00 PM

Present – Bob Gniadek, Bob Youdelman, Pat Callahan, Steven Patterson, Eileen Martin, Roger Manzolini, Alan Hanson, Neal Pilson, Angela Garrity, Danielle Fillio

Distribution of Materials – Danielle distributed all necessary materials to the Committee for department presentations.

Discussion of Department Budgets –

Town Clerk – Angela presented her budget reflecting increases in the election line due to the upcoming presidential election. She also presented her capital expense request for another set of records preservation. One of the previously preserved records books was shown to the committee.

Library – Kristin Smith presented her budget with minimal increases. She explained that a certain portion of their budget had to be used towards new materials in order to qualify for state grants and funding. She also explained that her utilities were now moved to the Town Hall Budget. The committee inquired about the library's needs in the new space. Kristin stated that space and programming was working out well and was excited to announce that two Library classes come over to Town Hall each week. It was noted that the pathway between the Town Hall and School was to be put on the agenda for the spring to get paved so that it can be maintained year-round. A discussion was held about the potential investment of the Library Gift Account funds in the Town's possession. It was noted that the Town is unable to invest the funds for the specific benefit of the library. A special act of Legislature may be requested which would allow the Library Trustees to be able to invest the funds and keep the interest. It was advised that the Selectmen discuss adding a warrant article to this year's annual town meeting.

Ambulance – EMD Director Austin White presented his ambulance budget as well as his capital requests. His overall budget, salary and expenses are part of Ambulance receipts creating no impact to the tax rate. His capital requests were a cardiac monitor to be able provide paramedic services. One EMT is in the process of becoming a paramedic and Austin already is. This would create more receipts for the Town as well as the ability to provide better emergency services to residents. His second request was to create a Stabilization fund to start putting money aside for a new Ambulance which will need to be replaced in 10 years. Austin explained that it would need to be ordered in FY26 since it is a four-year build time.

Austin gave a presentation on a new piece of equipment called the Lucas machine, used by surrounding departments. Richmond is able to use it for 60 days. He stated that Richmond had used it on a call earlier in the day and saved a life. The machine aids EMTs with the correct chest compressions required to correctly perform CPR. Austin and Heather Perkins, EMT then gave a demonstration on how the machine works. The committee was impressed by the machine and commended both Austin and Heather on its use at their call. It was noted that although this was not in his budget, there could potentially be ARPA money still available to purchase the machine.

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting – None

Adjournment – 5:46 PM