

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DECEMBER 28, 2006

MEMORIAL BUILDING

7:00 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

Budget Work Session Only.

Present: Bob Anderson and Neal Huntoon. George McCusker was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Insurance: The Board reviewed and discussed employee health insurance options for Matthew Thornton Blue and Blue Choice. Switching to Matthew Thornton Blue would result in more out of pocket costs for the employees. Bob moved to stay with the current Blue Choice coverage, seconded by Neal and unanimously approved.

The Contract with LGC Health Trust for health insurance coverage and short term disability coverage was signed.

Fire Department Meeting Room: The work has not been completed at the fire station. Outstanding bills for materials have not been received by the Town from Lavalley's, electrical work, and the heat installation. Fred Brown is unable to complete the drywall until the electrician is done. Neal moved to encumber \$16,000 from 2006 government buildings budget to complete the meeting room renovations, seconded by Bob and unanimously approved.

Police Department: Discussion regarding administrative costs for a full-time patrolman. Figures will be worked out and Tim will be asked to come to the January 2, 2007 meeting of the Selectmen.

Mileage Reimbursement: Bob made a motion that mileage reimbursement checks should only be cut once a month, seconded by Neal and unanimously approved.

Fire/Rescue Department:

Dallas reported that he is meeting with an electrician for the fire department on Saturday, and will have a second estimate for the January 2, meeting.

Dallas Patten, Fire Chief, and Jen Roberts, Rescue Captain presented the 2007 proposed budget.

New communications- Dallas reported that the current pagers are getting obsolete, some having been in the department for over 20 years. He would like to begin a program of updating 2-3 pagers per year as they have been doing with the turn-out gear.

The vehicle radios have been upgraded with a new radio for each response vehicle and 19 portable radios from a State grant they were awarded.

Dallas would like to have the radios removed from the fire trucks installed in officers and member vehicles. These radios are not outdated and still useable. He especially would like to provide them for rescue squad members as most often these members are responding directly to a scene in their personal vehicles. Their portable radios are not always adequate in providing communication between the ambulance and other personnel, and they can get better communication with vehicle units. There is no need to buy any other mobile radios, they would like to make use of the radios that are available.

The Board stressed that inventory and sign out records should be maintained if these radios are presented to members.

Dallas and Jen discussed with the Board who would be responsible for installation of these radios in personal vehicles and who would cover the expense. A decision was not reached. Dallas will look into the possibility of getting these radios adapted to plug in to vehicle power plugs, to eliminate the need for a permanent installation.

Reference Materials - Dallas is increasing his request for reference materials, as he is continuing to update NFPA materials for home inspections for the department.

Rescue Squad Training Fees - Jen reported in the past the rescue squad has been staffed with members who also worked for New London Hospital Ambulance Service. There are currently 7 new members serving the department that are not ambulance employees. Rescue squad members are required to have 24 hours of continuing education credits each year. In the past, members took advantage of training through New London Hospital, and the EMS Conference at Mount Sunapee. The rescue department currently trains 1-2 hours in-house each month, but needs further training to maintain their licenses. The EMS conference at Mt. Sunapee costs \$400.00 per person. The request for increased fees would cover continuing education for the current members of the department. The department is not currently taking new members that have not all ready been certified.

Rescue Squad Communications: Jen reported that there are not enough radios to go around for all the new members.

Knox Box – Dallas reported that he would like to propose that everyone with an alarm system at their property be equipped with a Knox Box for emergency entry. He reviewed the software system for this program. If an alarm were activated for a fire or rescue emergency, the fire department would have a master key to the knox box. The homeowner would be responsible for maintaining the keys in the knox box. EMS members would have codes for key access.

Dallas reported that the fire department has applied for an 80/20 grant for a thermal imaging camera and for a washing machine to wash turn-out gear. NFPA recommends washing gear two times per year, or more often if an emergency response situation warrants it. The cost of a heavy duty large capacity front loading washer is approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000. There are companies that clean the gear at a cost of about \$60.00 each, but then the gear is gone for several days.

Hose tester - Dallas reported that they recently looked at a hose tester another area department had built using a pressure washer. This is a cheaper alternative for a hose tester. The department would like to purchase a pressure washer and set it up as a hose tester. They had requested money in their 2006 budget for a hose tester. Neal moved to encumber \$2,000 from 2006 funds to purchase a pressure washer for the department, seconded by Bob and unanimously approved.

Air lines - Dallas reported that they are looking at running airlines in the building for direct connection to the vehicles. He is proposing this as a 2007 project. The Board discussed running copper airline versus black iron. The Board asked Dallas to gather some cost estimates.

Recreation Field: Neal reviewed literature regarding signage for liability for the skateboard park. Bob explained that the Selectmen had asked the recreation park building committee to come up with signage suggestions. The Board will look into signage.

The Board voted to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant