

FINCOM MEETING MINUTES

March 4, 2014

ATTENDANCE: ED HOAK; CHAIRMAN, MICHELE HAMILTON, NANCY GAJOLI, BRIAN RUA, DEAN LARABEE, SCOTT LABONTE; CHIEF OF POLICE, RICHARD MOROFF; CAPITAL PLANNING.

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2014 MEETING: Reviewed and approved as written.

PUBLIC HEARING - POLICE: Chief LaBonte has had a position open for the majority of the past year for an officer. He has not been able to find the right candidate who has already been academy trained so far. As a result, he has been using reserve officers to fill the available shifts. Putting an officer through the academy costs \$ 10,000. If a qualified candidate does not come forward, Scott will look to send someone to the academy. Scott is requesting a modest budget. Scott mentioned that the school committee is very much in favor to add a School Resource Officer to the staff. The school shooter training was successful and valuable enough that the school department paid for the training to be done a second time. His thinking is that the training is important and having the training done annually is important. A model job description for the School Resource Officers has been developed. The officer's time would be split between the two schools and different programs would be restarted and developed. He also feels that an officer in school would help foster a positive relationship between youngsters and police officers. Any candidate would go through extensive screening to help the department be sure they have a good candidate. The police department does not have a secretary. Department expenses are up roughly 10%, part of the increase is due to higher maintenance costs on existing vehicles. Right now, each of the full time officers has their own police car. The department is not requesting a vehicle replacement this year. The chief intends to keep all of his existing vehicles. The chief is requesting repair capital to fix the existing jail cells. Recently, we failed a public safety exam of the cells. This is the second year in a row, this year due to faulty plumbing. For \$ 85 per month a private company will maintain the cells for the town, and the contract includes insurance. The Radio Repeater building is in need of repair. A possible solution would be to put a new enclosure inside the existing structure. The chief has received information on repair costs. A new building would cost \$ 39,000 - includes structure and air conditioning. Existing equipment would be transported into the new facility.

PUBLIC HEARING - COMMUNICATIONS: Scott is replacing civilian dispatchers with uniformed dispatchers who have attended the reserve academy. Civilian dispatchers are unable to conduct any investigations, so through attrition they are being replaced. Aside from negotiated contractual obligations, the expenses are up modestly.

PUBLIC HEARING - PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING: Continued expenses due to age and poor construction. The inspection of the building took place months ago, but thus far the report has not been delivered to the Chief. Scott is requesting \$ 2,700 to put up a chain link fence behind the station to protect the valuable equipment that is kept back there. Scott believes the request would cover the materials for the project.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: Fire Department is looking for \$ 300,000 for a new tanker truck and repairs to another. The schools main repair priority is an energy management system at the middle school. The cost is \$ 20,000. The schools provided Mr. Moroff with a list of priorities for the next several years.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded at 8:41. Meeting adjourned.
The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 6:30 PM.