

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Attendance: Chairmen, Ed Hoak; Committee Members, Joe Freitas, Nancy Gajoli and Michele Hamilton.

Selectmen, Wendy Cochrane

Accountant, Kathy Avilla

Police Chief, Scott Labonte

Sargent, Dan Mosher

School Committee member, Dean Larabee

Meeting called to order at 6:30.

Reviewed the Finance Committee minutes of February 29, 2016, motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes with minor correction and unanimously voted for acceptance.

Police Chief, Scott Labonte and Sargent, Dan Mosher presented a video related to the police department and their needs. The town of Berkley is currently understaffed relative to today's needs. We are currently filling some of our positions/time on duty to reserve officers. There is a committee on the state level studying the use of reserve officers across the commonwealth and their actual on the job performance. There may come a time when reserve officers may not be allowed on the police force.

The Town of Berkley currently has 10 reserve offices in place that work flexible hours during the course of the week. A reserve officer goes through 350 hours of training, versus a full time police officer 900 hours. The main concern regarding reserves, beside their performance, is, if an on the job injury should happen, the cost to the town of Berkley would include their primary job.

One of the budget requests is to send one reserve officer every fiscal year for full time training for 3 years. In return, we would require a signing of a three year contract. This action would bring our police staff to 9, half of what the FBI recommend for our community. In addition, we need to consider leasing two vehicles.

Police Chief, Scott Labonte walked through the budget for FY 17, Dispatched department and the Public Safety building. No significant issues were raised in dispatch or the public safety building.

School Committee member, Dean Larabee, presented to the Finance Committee handouts for the upcoming SBRHS budget hearing scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2016.

Next meeting to be held on March 14, 2016 at the Berkley Town Hall.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:40pm/unanimously voted for acceptance.