June 27, 2018

Meeting of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday, June 27, 2018 beginning at 6:15 p.m. in Conference Room #1 at the Town Hall.

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Members present: Eric Gregoire, Chairman, Maureen Downing, Heidi Fogg, Susanne Boyea, Joan Cavallo, Raymond Yando and Beverly Tokarz

Members excused: Richard Moskal and Anthony Alves

The First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

At this time the committee met with Chief Madera who is requesting a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of $37,000 for staff overtime. His Overtime account is close to $300,000. There were eight people out of work at some point or another. There are three individuals in the academy, he is down three other officers and two officers are permanently injured. One won't be back until September and the other one will be retiring July 1st. He managed not to replace two individuals', but the work is still there. At this point the department is completely reactive. Their proactive activities are low. The Chief sat down with the Accountant to look at his numbers. There might still be money coming in to the department but not enough to cover the offset. The Chief thought the amount needed is $35,000 but he requested $37,000 because of unforeseen problems until July 1st. The shortfall stems from over $35,000 in Dispatch. His line item is $95,000. With eight individuals not working it's critical. He asked the Board to support creating two vacant spots to bring on personnel. When he knows that someone will be retiring he can start the hiring process. If he has the position, he can cut the time to six months. He also sent a letter to the Board giving them a projection of the personnel staff that he's looking to add on. He feels that having more officers will elevate the cost of overtime. He moved some money out of the EMT funds, the monies left over in other accounts were used to offset all the multiple negative line items in his operations. For three years there's been 0 percent increase in operations and that can't be sustained. He can't control contractual and lease agreements or software licensing fees. Everything has increased but the budget hasn't. He absorbed the $1,600 a month rental for the Emergency Communications System that is operating now. The old system is shut down and their operating on a lease. He spoke about the opioid additions, accidents, and school safety which costs money. He's putting a Resource Officer in the Middle School next year. It's become an area of concern. If they are not dealing with the children, they are dealing with the parents and extended family members. Their activity at the Middle School is quickly catching up to the activity that is going on at the High School. There has been an uptake in the last two to three years. Their call volume today is 18,000 calls vs. 11,600 calls in 2012 without growth in the police department. He believes that with the help of the Town Accountant his budget will be better managed because of the way it has been broken down. The budget for the department is strictly police and dispatch are separate which was a good decision moving them apart.

His goal is not to use all the money. It will be returned to the General Fund if there is any money remaining. He presented Mr. Gregoire with the background information, his budget figures and three copies of the Reserve Fund Transfer requests for approval and signature.

Moved by Ms. Downing, seconded by Ms. Boyea to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer to the Police Department in the amount of $37,000
Vote: 7-0 in favor

Moved by Ms. Downing, seconded by Ms. Boyea to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 6:37 p.m.
Vote: 7-0 in favor

Ludlow Finance Committee

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