

Minutes, Holden Finance Committee, February 23, 2022, Remote via Zoom  
Public Safety, Police Department

Members Present: Paul Challenger, Dave White, Joe Dolak, Chris Lucchesi (@7:30) Don Graves, Al Berg, Jane Titcomb, Stephanie Adams, Marilynn Foley

Member Not Present: Don Graves

Also Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager, Stephanie King, Asst. Town Manager, Tim Sherblom, Police Chief, Chris Noyes, Admin Lieutenant, Joclyn LaPlante, Communications Director

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 P.M.

The Police Chief reviewed the Police Department, Dispatch, Animal Control and Public Safety Building Budgets. He highlighted some items from the budget book narrative. There are no new positions being sought. The department has hired 8 officers in the past year and has another candidate ready to training this spring. He explained the advantages of buying Chevy Tahoes over the Ford Interceptors for the annual purchase of police vehicles. COVID 19 has affected vehicle purchases, as the wait time could be up to a year before delivery of the vehicles and equipping them. He is looking into the lease of a motorcycle to be used in community policing. Other budgets are also affected by COVID 19 such as purchasing items like ammunition, sanitizing the building, training and meetings needed to be conducted by Zoom. The department received a grant for a canine unit that covers the cost for 3 years. Other communities that have canine units supplement future costs by donations and successful fund-raising events, while local vets and pet supply stores provide services and food. He answered questions from the Committee.

The Dispatch Budget is funded mostly by grants and the other participating towns.

Animal Control is running very well with the same officers in place for the whole year.

The Public Safety Building Budget is up slightly due to the cost of doing everyday business.

The Committee thanked the Chief for the comprehensive narration in the budget book.

A motion by Al 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe to approve the minutes of November 3, 2021 was voted unanimously by roll call vote (Berg aye, Challenger aye, White aye, Titcomb aye, Adams aye, Foley aye, Lucchesi aye, Dolak aye).

Peter thinks the current estimated WRSD budget in the Resource Profile will improve due to increased funding of Chapter 70 and Transportation by the state, combined with the use of E&D money left over from last year. The revised WRSD budget estimate, not yet added to the Resource Profile, results in Holden's budget being about \$150,000.00 over the levy limit, which Holden should be able to absorb without a 2 and 1/2% override vote or a lot of painful cuts to the municipal budget.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilynn Foley, Clerk