

Rockland Town Clerk's Office
March 30, 2022 3:20 pm

TOWN OF ROCKLAND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 2, 2022

Committee Members Present: Chairman John Pumphrey, Bill Principe, Bill Stuart, Cara O'Neill, Joe Gambon, Linda Sternfelt.

Committee Members Absent: Vice Chairman Bob MacDonald, Secretary Julie Shaffer, Susan Gaines, Meghan Rooney.

Other attendees: Doug Lapp, Town Administrator; John Llewellyn, Police Chief; Gerard Eramo, Deputy Police Chief, Debra Krupczak, Town Assessor, Sirena Amaral, Assistant Town Accountant.

The meeting took place at the Lower Conference Room at Town Hall, and was called to order at 7:03 PM.

Chairman Pumphrey asked if there were any transfers for the Committee to consider. Assistant Town Accountant Amaral said that there were none.

Town Assessor Krupczak presented her budget. Her contract ends on 6/30/22. She plans on retiring over the next year and added a small amount to her existing salary for the next assessor, or to cover a possible overlap of salaries so that she can train the next assessor. The increase in the clerical salaries includes a step raise. The Legal Services line item is an estimate in case legal services are required. Binding expense is for the Collector's book. Dues & Seminars expense is increased due to more seminars and trainings taking place in person. Computer Software is a contract that covers three license agreements and hosting. Revaluation Services expense covers the three-year cyclical inspection due in FY 2023. The account currently contains \$53K, which is included in the \$69.5K expenditure for FY '23. The Assessor has no articles for the upcoming fiscal year.

Chairman Pumphrey asked how many new houses were built in Rockland in this fiscal year. Assessor Krupczak said there was only one. There are not a lot of remaining buildable lots available in Town.

Chief Llewellyn presented his budget to the Committee. He asked the Committee to consider increasing his budget approximately \$170K over the amount recommended by the Town to allow for a second School Resource Officer and two additional patrolmen. The Chief stated that a second School Resource Officer would be assigned to the new Elementary School when it opens, and that that officer would need training prior to his or her assignment. The new School Resource Officer is his next priority after the addition of a Lieutenant, which was recommended by the Town.

The Police Department budget for FY '23 includes an additional Lieutenant, which is needed to comply with the rules and regulations promulgated by the POST Commission created as part of police reform. The Commission requires the members of the Department to become accredited and certified over the next 2-3 years and will entail significant recordkeeping requirements, thus necessitating the addition to staff.

The Chief's salary is in accordance with his contract, which has been extended by the Town until his September 2022 retirement date. The Deputy Chief's salary is being increased by 4% to bring the salary

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in line with surrounding towns. Other salary line items are contractual, as is Longevity pay. Uniform Allowance is also contractual, as it has increased to \$1,450 per officer. Increases were also requested in fuel vehicle maintenance due to increased fuel costs, in radio & repeaters due to the need to replace radio batteries this year and in the supplies, station maintenance and gasoline line items because of increased costs. The Chief also said that, due to the reforms resulting from the POST Commission, auxiliary officers are being phased out, and the Department will have to create a civilian traffic enforcement force in order to have enough personnel to respond to all of the requests for details.

The Chief said that the Department has one article for two new Police cruisers. If those are ordered on 7/1, more than likely they will not be delivered until 2023 due to supply chain issues.

Chairman Pumphrey asked if actions had been taken to replace the Chief, in light of his September 2022 retirement date. The Chief has scheduled an Assessment Center for June 6th, during which an outside company will be scoring interested candidates. Scores from the assessment will be provided to the Town Administrator, and the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen will interview the candidates and select the next Chief. The Chief is confident that there are multiple qualified candidates for the position that are currently members of the Rockland Police Department.

After the Chief's presentation, Town Administrator Lapp gave the Committee members a brief review of the FY '23 budget presentation that he previously presented to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Lapp had previously provided the Committee members with the You Tube video of the presentation for them to review.

Following the presentation, Chairman Pumphrey said that the budgets of the Fire Department, the Recreation Commission and the Board of Health would be reviewed at the Committee's next meeting.

The Committee then reviewed the 2/16/22 Finance Committee minutes. No amendments were made to the minutes. Mr. Stuart made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Principe seconded the motion. Approval of the minutes was unanimous.

Mr. Principe briefly presented a synopsis of he and Ms. Sternfelt's liaison meeting with the Fire Department. Ms. Sternfelt then presented a synopsis of her liaison meeting with the School Department.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Principe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Sternfelt seconded the motion. Approval to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 PM.

The next Finance Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 9th at 7:00 PM in the Lower Conference Room at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Sternfelt, Finance Committee Member