

## **Board of Finance Public Safety Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

Date: February 24, 2012

Attending: John Pincavage-Subcommittee Chairman, Fire Chief Kingsbury and Deputy Chief Gottfried. The meeting began at 9:00 AM.

The FY2012 Budget for the first seven months was reviewed to determine any problems that could cause any potential budget overrun for the fiscal year. The continuing problem account is several lines in the Extra Help & Overtime account. Overtime has increased mainly because of the staffing required by storms and several serious fires including the church fire, as well as covering for personnel on military assignments and injury costs. The higher injury costs will be partially offset by insurance reimbursements and eventually require a transfer back to the Department after the Town is reimbursed from insurance.

The FY2012-13 Fire, Water Service, and Emergency Management Budget proposals are likely to show a little over a 2% increase overall with increases coming in capital spending driven by need for new vehicle, computer software, communications and maintenance equipment.

A discussion was held concerning the avenues available to the Department when an employee is no longer physically able to perform the job. Options are limited by workers compensation law.

Also discussed were the future plans of the Department to refurbish and rebuild fire stations. Given that the town has changed in many ways since many of the existing stations were located and constructed, including a larger population, a changed population density mix, an increase in average house size, etc., it may make sense to hire an outside consultant to analyze the Town's current characteristics with regard to the placement of fire stations to provide adequate fire coverage in the future. This process should have the input of various Town boards, Departments and personnel to insure that the best plan is formulated before committing capital for a building program.

The Meeting ended at 10:20 AM

John Pincavage  
BOF Public Safety Subcommittee Chairman