

Town of New Paltz
2010 Budget Meeting -October 27, 2009

Present: Kitty Brown, Jeff Logan, David Lent, Toni Hokanson, Jane Ann Williams @7:08

At 6:42 p.m. the meeting opened

Questions

DARE is regular patrol officers when not in the DARE Program.

McCutcheon - \$59,583 for 2009 with longevity; \$60712 next year. Now in a three day cycle. \$13,000 - \$3500 is typical benefit ratio – usually 1/3. Should be 800 hrs per year. He makes 29 hour without bennies 35 hour with bennies. \$15,080 for next year.

Shifts:

A – 11 pm to 7 am; B – 0700 to 1500; C – 1500 to 2300

B line – no less than two scheduled to work no sergeant backfilled on day shift unless there's an event.

16,000 willing to spend in school? Chief: essential. Working with kids in major part of police agenda.

DARE curriculum is on its way out. Resource officer in new genre. \$4,000 put aside (rotary contributes)

2 lines in police income \$1500 – gifts/donations – DARE – not brought in this year. \$1900 possibly received from Rotary (9802706 & 2707). \$4800 may be in DARE line account according to Theresa, Secretary to Police Department, but cannot find.

Councilwoman Brown: questioned seized asset fund balance? Answer to her question maybe \$6000, limited use allowed. Councilwoman Brown: Canine program began 200,000 in seized asset fund. Can these funds be used for DARE program? NO has to be drug related.

3) Special prosecutors – reduce Town overtime – Police Dept has no objection (less state tickets written in New Paltz)

Plea bargaining – we could reduce amount of time police officer shows up.

Clearance with Town Attorney (labor attorney)

Income increasing as result of special prosecutors fewer being dismissed.

Monthly report shows \$500 deductible each three cars totaled two not in yet. Record? Three cars totaled in one year affecting insurance rates? Unknown? Mandatory classroom training coming during department meeting in Spring. Driver training is also coming. Chief can provide data on accidents with police cars while on call.

Q # 5) how are calls routed from 911? From Kingston – our dispatcher receives the call and dispatch a car. 45 calls per day amounts to 2 per hour – county is willing to take those calls. Chief questioned what the time period is. Town Board interested in replacing with County. 911 does not take non-emergency calls. Calls go to limits in the field for non-emergency.

Supervisor Hokanson health and safety issues key; Joe feels having dispatcher for community.

3 full time dispatcher – asking for 8 part timers; 6 weekend shifts – saved for part timers. Most town the size of New Paltz have dispatchers 1/4 million yearly in dispatching with benefits. Councilman Lewis questioned 911 replace dispatchers? Chief replied 911 will not provide the service you are accustomed to. Supervisor Hokanson questioned how many calls. Chief responded 16,000 calls for emergency, smaller percentage of calls are emergency.

Councilwoman Brown asked where is slot we do without dispatcher? Case entry, warrant entries made by dispatcher officer. They do more than take calls. Decrease anticipated with the move uptown. Going backwards when other Towns go forward with dispatching. Police Department saving money where it can i.e., car leases. Benefits more like 50% of salary. \$41,400 longevity comes out of 1 million. Part-time salaries not reduced – they need to be.

Councilwoman Brown: lot of comment on the kind of library creates a burden to our taxpayers. She looked at Town of Gardiner budget online - \$230,000 is the amount to be raised by taxes. Gardiner library gets \$13,000 from school district tax bill. Are we excluded from that because of the type of library we are? Gardiner is a public library.

738 Library – Barb Hardgrave: Elting is public library, one of four different types. Has been saving Town hell of a lot of money for a long time. How do we compare – last page this is a lean budget. Spent saving to cover deficit of \$89,000 this year. No more savings. \$50,000 per year gift helped. We have no choice but to do proposition. If it does not pass – library will not be in business in 2 years. \$150,000 proposed in 2010 budget/ 20,000 yearly reduction... Sunday hours only possible if referendum passes. Survival depends on public funding. Public Safety offered to children by use of library. Councilwoman Brown: \$300,000 allocated for last 5 years (6 years ago). Library can not expect that amount every year. Association public library here; usually costs less than other Towns.

Public Board Meeting monthly – 4th Thursday of the month. Public annual meeting in January and it is open to the public by law. It is not private – insulting. Belong to association by paying \$1 year entitles you to vote for Board member. Gardiner library employees are town employees and paid by Town as CSEA members.

Average pay at desk is \$10 hourly. Councilwoman Brown recommends Town increase by \$50,000 to be found some place. \$229,000 in Gardiner due to proposition like ours. \$13,000 comes from school district voters. You do not need to be a New Paltz resident to use library – you need to be member of Mid –Hudson system.

Ira Margolis, Village resident: the library did not care what the Board gave, went over to people to give and now coming back to Board for money.

414 state law allows to go after tax money.

Bill Russell on pool budget Supervisor Hokanson reduced increase for lifeguards. Page 2 rates drop after 5 pm – adults pay (12 and over) under daytime fee. Seniors Monday – Wednesday free swim 12-1 not popular. Slow June – July due to weather. Fell behind 2008 season until August membership sign up dependent on weather in May. Swim lessons 9 – 11:45 pm, instructors cost – no breakdown - less than 98.25 fee. 50 residents and 75 non residents – 3 2week sessions of 3 days week; Level 1 – 6; level 2 – 8. We could charge more. Raising by \$5. increase revenue by \$1000. Bill needs to confirm 50/75 figures. DUSO Revenue take percentage of net from other sport groups hosting a tourney. Bill meets held Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning. Closed pool couple of days for meet related events. Pool does not collect revenue from championships – need to work on that. Set amount for registration,; set amount for meets; set amounts for membership fee; non residents increased, single increased 18 senior; 28 single members – 283 membership, 500 allowed within gates, they can be in the pool. Daily fee loss of \$700 on the 3 free Tuesdays. Bill's needs for next year – sidewalk, parking, traffic pattern, pathways , walkways – signs are up. Blacktop laid 3 handicapped parking spaces need additional spaces. No need to get engineer involved. Maybe blacktop a portion each year. Supervisor Hokanson responded that there is \$17,500 in the budget for paving. Money put in for pool repairs. Councilman Logan suggests to spend that money to give Bill his top three wishes.

#3,10 Bill's list - #11 Supervisor Hokanson concerns her.

Repair Roof – can Building and Grounds adjust doors not closing properly? Multi-sheet rock is a concern – should have a block building mold issue will escalate

Chief Snyder: Police Department having its own dispatchers ensures better safety aspect in building when public comes in. There is a faster response to calling NP than 911.

Sheriffs' department has two sheriffs covering seven towns in county. Troopers have seven officers covering seven Towns. Councilwoman Brown compared New Paltz to Gardiner with less taxes, less population, no college, thruway exit or bar scene.

Councilwoman Logan feels he deserves the same coverage as Gardiner.

Councilwoman Brown we do not want to be ineligible.

Supervisor Hokanson is not feeling good in reducing dispatchers and police officers.

Chief: last year budget increase was 2% labor attorney said we will not get a zero increase. Cut replacement of detective car.

Supervisor Hokanson questions why we have so many vehicles.

Councilman Logan questioned the Chief on where can you help to cut \$100,000 from our budget.

Chief replied no and said it was not fair; referred to the ASR building as new police facility, \$60,000 going into budget and you're asking me to cut money.

Supervisor Hokanson does not want to compromise safety. Cannot stick head in sand and pretend we do not have problems; we have increases in crime, population, traffic.

Council members Logan and Brown see no need for dog.

Chief responded the canine vehicle is free; he had promised to look at grants upon becoming chief.

Canine – Community relations aspect is major; received donations – 40,000 vehicle provided to department as result of community relations. Never had an issue to not use vehicle for other purposes. Feed? Councilwoman Brown: I know it cost us money but could not put my finger on it. Proposes to eliminate 1 year and re evaluate the cost.

Councilman Logan: made comparison other town in Ulster County our size has.

Response of other canines to our program is ½ hour.

Supervisor Hokanson couple of long term officers eligible for retirement – encourage incentive to retire.

Putting carrot out – hire new at bottom salary – cutting it in half.

Can not give up 1 detective Joe to JL. Councilwoman Brown if we lose Sergeant slot permanent and hire a canine – they are considered police officers.

Councilman Logan questions if the Town truly needs two detective and give up one sergeant. Councilwoman Brown suggests going to 3 sergeants .Chief says it is not suitable. Sergeant is supervisor in charge of a shift and backup in an emergency.

Councilman Logan: can you do without detective for one year? Chief said backlog occurred previously went to 2 in 1995, would add a third one.

Buyout - \$5000 asked Supervisor Hokanson. Chief: if offering \$10,000 and add sick time.

Councilman Logan any shot of four guys deciding to go? Joe – 2 sergeants may consider, one or two officers would not be devastating. Might get two people to go if offer is made with in two weeks.

Medical costs have to be paid as well.

Ira questioned canine cost of \$9800 for overtime.

Supervisor Hokanson equipment come from seized assets? Chief will look into it and body armor.

Chief: save close to \$4000 with department physicals.

Supervisor Hokanson questioned what if we pay for co pays at their own doctor? Would be \$640. Joe will talk to Union rep.

Councilwoman Brown: computers in cars – cameras – do we need that equipment in cars?

Supervisor Hokanson savings on off-lease car? Chief: no lease – one car bought to replace wrecked car.

\$81,000 May drop just under \$80,000.

Councilwoman Brown: wants to bring down overtime. Supervisor Hokanson indicated there are some errors in salary – need to look at those figures.

Chief: said that overtime has been down. Spent \$169,000 thru Aug in overtime.

Councilman Logan Friday and Saturday, Sunday A line – five guys would be on and sergeant, maybe we do not need six guys, State troopers and Sheriff do back up. Suggested cutting an officer. Chief says problem is rotation of days off on those nights. It is contractual can not just change their schedule. Councilwoman Brown disagrees with the rotation – change in next contract. January, February March a-line numbers. Chief responded we do not back fill.

13. Councilwoman Brown: County Fair see answers. No traffic coverage. Questioned if we could cut down to one officer for a County event? Joe likes to have two, but can save on parades. Entails overtime on part-timers and we use state, sheriff, SUNY, fire department. Councilwoman Brown asked what if we say no to village event. They could have to pay. Chief: cannot pick and choose parades – go to an application fee to fund the cost of coverage.

Councilman Logan suggested to charge an exorbitant insurance fee to dissuade parades. Cost for small parades \$800, for large: \$1200-1400; would be contractual, covering events such as the Studley party, High School events.

Supervisor Hokanson: potential application fees for the forest run, SOS event.

Councilwoman Brown stated the 4th of July event was a nightmare; can we use volunteers?

County Fair Coverage? Chief: not mandatory – it is in New Paltz's interest, although County Fair, - good PR and Gary Newkirk from the County reciprocates.

Ira suggested that for *Take Back the Night*, a college event, they should go to University Police Department.; no IMA between Town and Village so if the Village wants Town Police Dept to oversee why can't the Town say to the Village- it will cost.

Councilwoman Brown asked if municipalities could be included in the application fee. Supervisor Hokanson responded no can charge the people having the parade "Event review fee"

Councilwoman Williams: Runs and Triathlons – volunteers are okay but you have crazies who break into the line. It happened one time on St. Patrick's Day.

Chief will make corrections.

Councilwoman Brown fears Building and Grounds will have to hire new personnel – grant? Chief is to review grants that may have come in and been misapplied by the bookkeeper.

Councilwoman Brown canine message? Supervisor Hokanson you and Jeff so not want and no one else offered feedback. Let Chief update budget, will need an additional meeting. Pool, recreation, highway, youth to present on November 5th. At 6 p.m.

11:24 p.m. Councilwoman Williams made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried

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Respectfully submitted,

Marian Cappillino
Town Clerk