

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
December 11, 2018

PRESENT: Selectmen, David Lage, Chairman, Jay Hopkins, and John Veaser; Town Administrator, Carlotta Pini, and; Budget Committee Members, Marc Fortier, Chairman, Jim Hicks, Alan Doyle, and Pat Mittleider.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Carpenter presented the proposed Police Department budget. He noted that the health insurance line item needs to be adjusted to reflect the change in plan and pricing. Chairman Lage questioned whether the Chief had budgeted for six officers last year and whether it had been prorated. The Chief explained that he has been interviewing candidates for the open position. The soonest someone could get into the Academy is April. It was agreed that he would prorate wages and benefits for sixth officer to March 1.

Chief Carpenter pointed out that in the proposed budget, nine lines and 83% of the budget is for salary and benefits. The remaining budget has eight lines that have decreased, ten that are level funded, and three lines increased. He ran through the various line items, answering questions as they arose.

There was a discussion about animal control. The Chief noted there had been 159 calls year-to-date. He recommended one vehicle be dedicated to that purpose and suggested using the detail car.

There was a discussion about funding community policing efforts, such as "Coffee with a Cop". The Board agreed to add \$200 to the budget.

The discussion of animal control continued. Chairman Lage expressed interest in having the detail vehicle become the Fire Department command vehicle. It was suggested that we look at neighboring towns to see if their animal control officers might be able to serve New Ipswich.

Jim Hicks, a member of the Souhegan Valley Ambulance Service, presented a proposed warrant article to the Selectboard for consideration. Selectman Veaser moved to accept the article. Chairman Lage seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

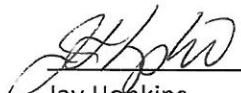
The Fire Chief, Meredith Lund, returned to the Board to discuss her budget proposal, specifically the two harnesses the Board had eliminated. She requested one be put back in the budget, because she has to have three that are compliant. It was suggested that she purchase one out of 2018's budget. Chief Lund also brought up the hose testing which needs to be done according to certain standards. Chairman Lage expressed interest in replacing hose rather than paying to have it tested. John Veaser noted the Board hadn't taken all the money for hose testing out, but said he wants to put it back in. Selectman Hopkins agreed. Chief Lund also noted that her request for an increase in her stipend followed an increase for the firefighters the year before. She also suggested a warrant article to put any proceeds from the sale of the old fire truck into a capital reserve fund for Fire Department equipment.

At 8:35 p.m. Selectman Veeseer made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Hopkins seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

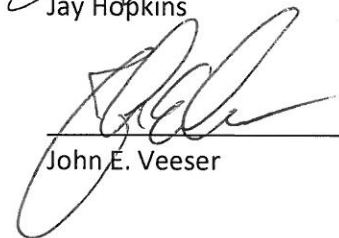
Respectfully submitted,
Carlotta Pini

Board of Selectmen December 11, 2018 minutes approved by:

David S. Lage, Chairman



Jay Hopkins



John E. Veeseer