

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

6:30 PM

Virtual, via Zoom

Members present: Brian Boyle, Bob Guerriero, Craig Lauer, and Bill Nickles

Members absent: Omid Gharony and Ann Hurd

Call to order: Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The entire meeting can be viewed by going to:

[Bolton Access TV - Advisory Committee Meeting](#)

Agenda Item #1: Veterans Services

- Brian Stearns is the new Veterans' Agent and presented the proposed budget.
- Wages represent a 3% COLA.
- The benefits that veterans receive are defined by the state and means-tested. There are currently 5 veterans that are receiving benefits and the state reimburses 75% of benefits in the following fiscal year.
- Dues are for a professional organization that Mr. Stearns is a member.
- Meetings are for the celebratory event on Memorial Day.
- Motion to approve Veterans Services budget by Craig Lauer, seconded by Bill Nickles; **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (4-0).**

Agenda Item #2: Historical Commission

- Martha Remington presented the proposed budget. Bob Busch and Alice Coggershall also were present from the Historical Commission
- Proposed budget is level funded at \$6,150.
- A portion of the proposed budget will be used to create the East End historical district- which will be the third National Historic District in town. The consultant cost is a flat rate of \$10,000 which is spread out over 3 or 4 years. They have already paid \$7,000 of the \$10,000.
- Dues are for membership in preservation groups.
- Brian Boyle asked about the classification of Supplies and Purchase and Services. There is no change to proposed budget.
- Motion to approve Historical Commission budget by Bob Guerriero, seconded by Craig Lauer; **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (4-0).**

Agenda Item #3: Emergency Management

- Chief Nelson and Lorraine Kenney presented the proposed budget.
- One line item which is the town wide emergency notification system for \$3,900.
- Fee was set several years ago and is locked in place by contract.

- Motion to approve Emergency Management budget by Bob Guerriero, seconded by Craig Lauer; **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (4-0)**

Agenda Item #4: Dispatchers

- Chief Nelson and Lorraine Kenney presented the proposed budget.
- Have not received the final number to be assessed but there is an expectation of a 5% increase, but it could be a larger increase. We should have a final number by February 1st.
- Chief Nelson stated that the town still saves money by being part of the regional dispatch program.
- No vote on this budget tonight.

Agenda Item #5: Public Safety

- Chief Nelson and Lorraine Kenney presented the proposed budget.
- The budget is level funded but the line-item numbers are changing.
- Purchase and Services increased because they want to do regular maintenance on all the radios and communications equipment. Money was moved from Trash disposal to cover this increase.
- They are in good shape with maintenance on buildings.
- It is prudent to keep heating where it is because the number was increased a couple years ago.
- Motion to approve Public Safety budget by Craig Lauer, seconded by Bob Guerriero; **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (4-0)**

Agenda Item #6: Police Department

- Chief Nelson and Lorraine Kenney presented the proposed budget.
- A 3% COLA for non-union employees is in the budget but union wages are not yet settled.
- There is a small increase (\$1,545) in overtime expense.
- The Hired Services has increase because they will be sending someone to the police academy in July. The attendance cost is \$3,300 and there are other costs for equipment and books.
- The Gas line-item is probably too low at \$14,200 as they only have \$2,600 left in the Gas line-item budget currently. Chief Nelson recommends that another \$8,500 be added to this line-item.
- There was some discussion about the new all-electric police cars which would cost more up front, but it is expected that ongoing maintenance will be lower.
- Chief Nelson explained the need to purchase a new cruiser every year to keep the fleet operating efficiently, and not to have a situation of not having an operating vehicle.
- \$8,500 was added to the budget for Gas.
- Motion to approve Police Department budget by Craig Lauer, seconded by Bob Guerriero; **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (4-0)**

Agenda Item #3: Advisory Committee business

- Meeting minutes from December 21, 2021, were presented. Motion to approve minutes by Craig Lauer, seconded by Bob Guerriero; **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (4-0).**
- Next meeting will be January 25, 2022.
- Adjourn: Motion to adjourn Craig Lauer at 7:38 PM, seconded by Bob Guerriero; **VOTED AND PASSED UNANIMOUS (4-0).**

Approved by the Advisory Committee