

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Finance Committee Meeting Notes
Monday-March 17, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Cape Elizabeth Town Hall

All committee members were present except Jamie Wagner. Also present were the town manager, police chief, fire chief, assessor, codes officer, planner, library director and facilities manager. Three citizens were also present.

Welcome and Introductory Comments- James T. Walsh, Finance Committee Chair
Jim Walsh thanked all those involved with the budget process and encouraged an active council dialogue. He invited citizens present to offer comments but none did so.

Town Manager's Budget Overview- Mike McGovern
Mike McGovern provided a brief summary of the budget message.

The committee reviewed all of the general government accounts, (110, 120, 130, 135, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 520 and 530.) They also reviewed the public safety accounts, (210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240 and 250). They reviewed the human services account (410) and the Thomas Memorial Library (510). They reviewed the facilities accounts including 600, 610, 615, 620, 630 and 635. They also reviewed intergovernmental assessments (710) and the proposed police cruiser replacement in 715.

There were questions on the following issues:

- Has too much been reduced from the GIS maintenance account? (1202011)
- Why is a new code enforcement software program needed? (1202109)
- Is the \$35,000 budgeted for legal services (1101035) enough considering current spending trends? Why are legal services costs all budgeted in one place?
- No funds are proposed to be budgeted for arts support. (1502060)
- The town manager needs to continue to follow-up with MEPers (1701021) on the additional retirement costs for our legacy plan.
- There was concern expressed over the health insurance increase budgeted for January 1, 2015 (1701025) as a result of not being in an individually rate plan. Can we work with the schools to get the policy back up to 50 coverages in order to stay in an individually rated plan?
- It was noted that \$25,000 is included (1702010) to address concerns that we need a greater emphasis on human resource issues.
- Police overtime (2101003) was discussed and numbers were shared on whether or not there could be savings with hiring an additional officer.
- Has there been true savings from regionalizing dispatching? (2202010)
- Are we continuing to explore LED lighting for street lights? (2402074)

- It was noted that the library budget (510) is based on the library operating in its current configuration.
- Should the \$5,000 for the Greater Portland Economic Development Committee be eliminated? (5205052)
- What is the history of the penny for land acquisition proposal? (5205054)
- Are bids received for facilities contracted services? (6002062)
- Why is the county tax assessment up?
- The police cruiser replacement schedule was reviewed (7104001)

Revisit Items

The following accounts were specifically referenced as needing revisiting as the budget process continues:

Account 1202011	GIS Maintenance
Account 1352010	Legal Services
Account 1701021	Maine State Retirement Legacy Plan
Account 1701025	Health Insurance
Account 5205052	Greater Portland Economic Development Committee

Closing Comments: James T. Walsh, Finance Committee Chair

The budget process will continue on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

Mike McGovern, Note taker