

Selectmen's Meeting

December 27, 2012

The Campton Board of Selectmen met at 9 a.m. at the Town Office. Present were Selectmen Craig Keeney, Sharon Davis, Charles Wheeler and R. Marsh Morgan, Jr. Selectman Cheney could not be present due to his work schedule.

The Board met first this morning with the Campton Thornton Fire Commissioners, Niles Downing, Kelly Bolger, Lou Klotz and Jim Demerit. Commissioner King was unable to attend due to work commitments. Also present to go over the budget was Fire Chief David Tobine.

The Chief had given copies to the Board previously so they would have a chance to review the budget before today's meeting. He then proceeded to go line by line, and explain the budget proposed for 2013. The first section of the budget was the payroll items. Full time employees were looking at an increase of 3% for COLA plus step increases as adopted after their wage and pay study last year. The Chief also explained the Call Company Fire and EMS hourly pay and stipend amounts for week day nights and weekend on call. This change reduced the call company line item, and increased the off duty ambulance coverage. These changes have attracted some new members to sign up for the call company, and it also reduced the full time overtime line item. Special Detail for the Sugar Shack events stayed the same and is offset by revenue. The Fire Department's Treasurer will also receive a 3% COLA and step increase. Payroll taxes had an increase while unemployment insurance showed a decrease. Retirement has gone up due to mandated increases from the New Hampshire Retirement System for both Groups 1 and 2. Health and long term disability only increased by 2.15% this coming year. Postage, Chief and Deputy Chief's expenses remained the same and vehicle fuel increase by \$1,000.00. Health and Safety increased by a \$1,000.00 due to an increase in the cost of physicals for the fire fighters. It is recommended that they take a NEPA physical which is very thorough, and makes sure that a person is fit to be able to perform the strenuous tasks of the job. Fire Department equipment and rescue supplies remained the same as did insurance deductions and training. Some increases were needed in insurance, and equipment and vehicle maintenance. Also Utilities and publications and software had some small increases while supplies and general expenses remain the same. The cost of the audit was increased based on what last year's figure was. The Chief did caution the Selectmen that the Call Company did not experience a typical year in 2012. Normally there are seven to eight house fires, and this year, there were only two. The Chief explained that the only wiggle room he has with his budget is the equipment line so if they experience a lot of calls or repairs; he usually waits until the end of the year to purchase all the equipment he had budgeted for so he does not go over his bottom line. He indicated that he prefers to give money back to the Towns rather than have to be over budget. He indicated that the big trucks now only needed to be inspected once a year as opposed to two in the past, and they will now be able to test their pumps as well which they had not always been able to do before. This can actually give the Towns a better insurance rating for homeowners. Revenues from the ambulance ran from around \$110,000 to \$120,000 this year with a 64% rate of return which is a lot

better than most communities. The fire truck that is the last lease purchase one that was acquired will be paid up in 2014. The Towns will have to put more money in their Capital Reserves to pay for trucks in the future. Thornton has done some, and Campton just started last year. The Chief would like to purchase a new utility truck. The one they have now is a 2003 and it is getting tired. The total cost of the vehicle would be \$30,000.00 which Thornton has in their Capital Reserves. Campton would put in a separate warrant article for their portion of the truck which would be \$18,000.00. The Chief also wanted to discuss the ambulance. He indicates that almost 42% of the calls were for the ambulance, and our communities have a growing elderly population. This year the ambulance had 144 multiple calls and had to call on Plymouth or Waterville Valley to respond as back up. Also the ambulance was out of service for a week due to repairs this last year. The Chief would like to see the Towns consider adding an additional ambulance in the 2014 budget, and keep the other ambulance as the secondary vehicle for calls. He indicated that the department has the manpower, but not the vehicles for medical calls. The Chief has applied for a grant for an ambulance but has not heard back yet. A new ambulance would cost somewhere around \$170,000.00 to \$190,000.00. The Chief would like to get a 4 wheel drive ambulance due to the steep roads in the Estates. The Board was pleased with the budget presentation and liked the extra sheet which shown the explanation for increases.

Other matters that were discussed were Commissioner Bolger indicated that the Chief was working with Emergency Management in getting monies for a free generator for the new Campton Municipal Buildings' Emergency Operations Center. The Chief mentioned that the Campton Sub-Station needs some modification to the furnace in the building. Dave Robinson, who services and repairs it, can barely get the door open to clean it due to the way it was placed. Also the Chief requested that since the renovations have been done, the paint in the bay area looks very bad, and he wondered if that could be included in funds for the Fire Station building. The sub-station also needs air filters this year would total \$1,500.00. Selectmen Keeney mentioned that with the site cleared for the new building, the back of the Station was clearly visible, and it would be nice to clean it up for aesthetic purposes. The Chief indicated that he would like to see the parking lot leveled so the water would not build out by the side of the building.

The Board met next with Kurt Smith, our IT person for the Town computers. Kurt indicated that he had started out with the Town over 15 years ago, and the Town's computer needs and service has grown more complex and we have more computers and printers to work with. He realizes that the costs that he has billed the Town have increased over the years, and he would like to propose a maintenance agreement between the Town and himself that would be easier for the Town to budget expenses each year, and easier for Ann Marie to pay and track. He indicated that this would include all general maintenance which would also help eliminate emergency calls. It would not include install for new equipment or hardware. The Board requested that he be very detailed in putting in the agreement what he would cover and not cover, and they would review it, but did like the idea of a maintenance agreement. Ann Marie also mentioned a memorandum that she had received from Hannah in relation to some computer problems in her office. Kurt advised that he was proposing that she replace the older computer in her office as well as one in the Selectmen's Office in the 2013 budget. He also indicated that Karen's computer is not a problem with the system, but the fact that they want to continue to use

Microsoft Works which is no longer a supported program in the industry. The new computers also have different attachments for the wiring that does not fit the older plugs. The Board agreed that they were aware that Microsoft Works was no longer a viable program. Kurt also wants to update the computer usage policy which he put together for the Board a number of years ago to make the system less likely to have programs added that can cause viruses. The Board also agreed that this was a good idea as well.

The Board then went on to review the minutes from the meeting on December 17th. Craig Keeney made a motion to approve them as written, and Selectman Wheeler seconded, and all agreed.

Some abatements, a current use application and a deed were signed by the Board.

Selectman Keeney then made a motion to go into Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 11(e) discussion of pending litigation.

When the Board came out of Non Public, a motion was made by Selectman Keeney to seal the minutes, and seconded by Selectman Wheeler. With a roll call vote, Selectman Davis – yes, Selectman Morgan – yes, the minutes were sealed.

It was agreed that Ann Marie contact Department Heads to line up more budgets to be reviewed for the next meeting on January 7, 2013. Selectman Morgan will speak with the Planning Board about putting their 2013 budget together.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Foote, Town Administrator