

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2021

Roll Call: Dana Wrigley Robert Nutting David Groder Donald Borman
Absent: Michael Perkins

Others: Gari Bowman, Town Manager Kelly Pinney-Michaud, Finance
Janice Porter, Town Clerk David Coughlin, Fire Chief
Anthony Thibodeau Kelly Roderick
Nicole Goodheart Jon Cox

Business Agenda:

1. It was moved by Robert Nutting seconded by David Groder and voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from the November 8th meeting and signing the disbursement warrant.
2. Chief Coughlin and Tony Thibodeau presented the report relative to the "Fire Department Labor Study" which included an accumulation of data from 1991 through to the present.

Chief Coughlin expressed his concerns with the department's staffing challenges, increased call volume, demands for services, availability of responders, and the calls for service by time of day.

The report included a proposal in which the fire station would have full time twenty-four (24) hour staffing, that would include four (4) full time firefighter/EMT. Every aspect of the presentation highlighted the need for guaranteed response times 24/7 for residents of Oakland.

The budget breakdown provided the cost of overtime/vacation/holiday, gear/uniforms/benefits, and salaries in the amount of \$427,843.

It was moved by Robert Nutting seconded by Dana Wrigley and voted 4-0 to include the proposal for funding the additional Fire Department Staff in the proposed 2022-2023 budget.

3. It was moved by Donald Borman seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 4-0 approving the "Community Use of Town Meeting Room Application Form" . The form will be utilized when use of the Atlantic Room located at the Fire Station and/or the Cascade Room at the Police Department, is requested by local groups.
4. It was moved by David Groder seconded by Donald Borman and voted 4-0 to extend the streetlight project contract ending on December 31st , by an additional 60 days, with Affinity LED Lighting of Dover New Hampshire. An extension is needed because the town purchased the lights but now delivery of all of the fuses is pending. The town office has been taking calls concerning streetlights that are currently out in various locations. The office has been explaining the current situation of the pending delivery of our fuses and the contractor's availability. The Manager reported that should we undertake replacing any of those lights the town would incur cost of \$250.00 per light plus labor.
5. The Manager reported that a new law beginning January 1, 2022, will mandate towns/entities/parties to pay on a yearly basis \$10 per ton for the handling of sludge or septage. Monies collected from those funds will be used by DEP to develop and implement a

comprehensive program to evaluate soil and groundwater for PFAS. An estimated cost from the town \$3,500. Updates will be provided.

6. It was moved by David Groder seconded by Donald Borman and voted 4-0 to appoint Janice Porter, as Town Clerk, for a three -year term.
7. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by Donald Borman and voted 4-0 to approve placing the 4% COLA for town employees, in preparing the 2022-2023 budget. It was moved by Dana Wrigley seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 4-0 to approve the additional "Council Guidance for Budget Years 2022/2023", which includes proposed pay increases from last year and a staffing increase. The Manager discussed the retirement of Jean Ponitz as head of the flower committee. A possible replacement for consideration is a six-month position for a gardener that will maintain the flowers and beautification of Oakland. It was suggested that the part-time position should be listed within the Buildings and Grounds budget.
8. It was moved by Donald Borman seconded by Robert Nutting and voted 4-0 to extend the sales contract with Plourde Real Estate, an additional six (6) months, for the sale of the Town Farm Road property.
9. Council members recognized the Fire Chief, David Coughlin, and all the fire fighters who helped to extinguish the downtown fire on Main Street on December 2nd. Rapid response from everyone involved helped to save the entire downtown area.

Executive Session: It was moved by Robert Nutting seconded by David Groder and voted 4-0 to enter executive session per 1 MRSA Section 405(6)(A) at 7:25 pm.

It was moved, seconded, and voted to come out of executive session at 8:22 pm with no votes taken.

It was moved, seconded, and voted 4-0 to adjourn at 8:23 pm