

# **TOWN OF RYE – BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Thursday, December 6, 2018**

**11:30 a.m. – Rye Town Hall**

*Present: Chair Priscilla Jenness, Vice-Chair Phil Winslow and Selectman Keriann Roman*

*Others Present: Town Administrator Michael Magnant, Finance Director and Assistant Town Administrator Becky Bergeron.*

## **I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Priscilla Jenness called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m. and lead the Pledge of Allegiance

## **II. 2019 Budget Work Session**

### **• Fire Department Capital Outlay – Fire Chief Mark Cotreau - \$114,000.00**

▪ Ambulance Stretcher	19,000.00
▪ Radio Base Station Replacement	30,000.00
▪ RTV 4 WD Utility w/EMS	
Slide out	30,000.00
▪ Sea-doo Search & Rescue	35,000.00

Chief Cotreau discussed the need for a new ambulance stretcher with the Board of Selectmen. He stated that when the new ambulance was purchased, the department felt that the old stretcher would be used to equip the new ambulance. However, it has been discovered that the old stretcher is not large enough in height, requiring it to be lifted up over a gap in order for it to be put into the ambulance. He added that during recent training called “Cot Safe”, the department has learned that one of the key points regarding keeping the patient and the staff safe is using the right equipment. The old stretcher is not the right equipment for the new ambulance. The old stretcher is the right equipment for ambulance A1 and will be used there. The manual stretcher will be placed in reserve.

Chief Cotreau reminded the Board that there were five events last year where a sea-doo should have been used. He referred to the need of this unit as a “Critical Service Gap” for the department because the lack of this unit can make a difference between a rescue and a recovery. He pointed out that this tool can be used most of the time. Obviously, there will be times when it cannot be used because of weather conditions; however, it can be used year round, including the winter months. He further explained that the Sea-doo that will be purchased is one that is solely designed for search and rescue. Chief Cotreau stated that he has spoken with the Harbor Master and they are willing to work with the department in order to place the mooring dock at the Harbor. He explained that this equipment will become part of an overall approach to water rescue.

The costs breakdown is as follows:

- Sea-doo Unit \$24,000.00
- Mooring Dock 1,200.00
- Trailer 750.00
- Miscellaneous Equipment 4,000.00
  - Drag-behind sled
  - Helmets
  - Suits
  - Radios

He further explained that there is a requirement for certification for the use of this unit. A certification trainer has been contacted to come into the department to certify all the full-time staff, at a cost of \$500.00 a person, totaling \$5,000.

Selectman Roman recommended asking the State of New Hampshire for funds to help with the purchase of this unit or for funds for ongoing maintenance, as the town will be providing rescues off of State properties.

Chief Cotreau stated that when he was talking to the Harbor Master, he suggested contacting the Deputy Chief of the Harbor Masters regarding this option. He agreed to return to the Board with any feed-back from the State.

Vice-Chair Winslow recommended that Geno Marconi be contacted to get him on board as to where the unit will be moored and launched at the Harbor.

Chief Cotreau stated the RTV will be used for rescues in remote areas in and around Town. Typically, in areas such as in the woods. There are very few places that are not accessible with this unit. In the winter, the tires are switched out to tracks to be used in the ice and snow. The unit will carry a chainsaw and will have a winch on the front and back. The price also includes a trailer.

Vice-Chair Winslow asked the Chief which unit he feels is more important if he had to make a choice for this year; the sea-doo or the RTV. He pointed out that for the proposed budget, it will be easier to pass the purchase of one of these units than both.

Chief Cotreau stated that the sea-doo is more important because it is a “Critical Service Gap”, as the lack of the sea-doo is preventing the department from doing their jobs. The RTV is preventing them from accessing areas and is also important. However, the sea-doo is more important at this time.

Chief Cotreau reminded the Board that the radio replacement program was originally a four year program. This would have been year three. However, because the department was forced to replace the base station that runs the alerting from dispatch, and then the Chief just recently replaced seven of the pagers, the department will be able to shorten the program to three years. The proposal for this last year will be a combination of year three and four. What remains to be done is to replace the second base station and some remotes and pagers.

**Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the purchase of the ambulance stretcher, the sea-doo and the radio replacements as presented by Chief Cotreau in the amount of \$84,000. Seconded by Keriann Roman. All in favor.**

- **Fire Department Pumper Ladder Quint Replacement – Fire Chief Mark Cotreau**

Finance Director Becky Bergeron led the discussion regarding the financing of the Quint Fire Truck. She reminded the Board that the proposal is to take \$492,000 from the Capital Reserve and Special Revenue Funds, and to bond or lease the balance of \$500,000. She presented the Board with a ten year amortization schedule provided by the bond bank and a five year amortization schedule from the lease company. She stated that the issue in front of the Board this morning is weather the Town does a lease/purchase or bond for the \$500,000.

Chief Cotreau spoke regarding the need for the ladder truck and how it relates to mutual aid. He talked about the uses; pertaining to rescue, and high volume water capacity. He also talked about the condition of the current ladder truck. The current ladder truck is old and the certified emergency vehicle technicians are recommending that it be taken out of service. For one, it doesn't have ABS brakes. It has an unresolved braking issue. The truck was manufactured by two different companies and parts are not available for repairs. Chief Cotreau stated that he just doesn't know if it will be in service another year.

Selectman Roman stated that she likes the idea of the lease but wanted to talk about how it would be structured. She reported that if the Town goes with a lease with the "Escape Clause" in it, they cannot use the CRF (Capital Reserve Funds) until after the last year of the lease. Meaning that the lease will be for the total amount of the truck in the amount of \$992,000 and the interest would be figured on the higher amount. If the lease is done without the "Escape Clause" the Town is locked in and can use the Capital Reserve Funds in the first year. This will bring the amount to be leased down to the \$500,000 so interest would be paid on a lesser amount.

Finance Director Becky Bergeron stated that there is concern that if there is ever a need to turn the truck back in, the vote will have to be a 3/5 vote without the "Escape Clause". With the "Escape Clause", if the voters do not fund the payment in a future year, the Town would have to return the truck so the 3/5 vote is not required.

Selectman Roman stated that as a management prospective it makes the most sense to do the five year lease without an "Escape Clause". That way the \$492,000, can be taken out of the Capital Reserve Funds up front as a down payment; meaning that less is leased and less is paid in interest. She added that the Town needs the truck for the safety and welfare of its residents; however the Board of Selectmen also represent the voters and what the voters want. What makes sense for the Town, may be in conflict to what the voters decide that they want. Selectman Roman recommended that the Board does what makes sense financially, which is, the lease without the "Escape Clause", use the Capital Reserve Funds as a down payment, pay less interest and the 3/5 vote.

Vice-Chair Winslow commented that if the Board feels strongly that safety and need are the driving factors, the Board should take the route that will get the truck, regardless if it costs more.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided that the best interest of the Town will be to lease/purchase the truck for a five year term without the “Escape Clause”

**Motion by Keriann Roman to place an article on the warrant to lease/purchase a ladder truck for a five year term, without an “Escape Clause”, in the amount of \$500,000 and to use \$492,000 from Capital Reserve and Special Revenue Funds as the down payment and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the Capital Reserve and Special Revenue Funds. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in favor.**

- **Capital Outlay - Side Walk Repair – Public Works**

Finance Director Becky Bergeron addressed the Board regarding an additional appropriation in Capital Outlay. She explained that repairs are needed between the Atlantic Ocean and the side walk on Route 1A, Ocean Blvd. She explained that FEMA will potentially pay 75% of the repair, however, the appropriation needs to be \$20,000.

Chair Jenness pointed out that this area is in the precinct and that they are responsible for the sidewalks.

The discussion of this issue was placed on hold until the Public Works Director and the Police Chief can join in.

- **Budget Adjustment – Capital Outlay and Operating Budget**

Finance Director Becky Bergeron stated that Capital Outlay, Line 730, originally had \$20,000 for the Vision Software upgrade and \$4,000 for the Town Hall foundation repairs. However, the Vision Software has been reduced to \$15,000. She stated that she has moved the Software from Capital Outlay line 730, to the General Government section of the operating budget, line 468, in the amount of \$15,000. Line 730 in Capital Outlay will be reduced to \$4,000 for the foundation. The overall net effect will be a decrease in the budget of \$5,000.

Selectmen Roman recommended that the Board appropriate an additional \$10,000 to hire an architect to design the interior of the Town Hall building.

The Board agreed to increase the Capital Outlay line 730 by \$10,000 for this purpose. Line 730 – Capital Outlay – Town Hall will be \$14,000. The overall net effect will be an increase in the budget of \$5,000.

**Motion by Keriann Roman to change the Capital Outlay Town Hall Line 730 from \$24,000 to \$14,000, to pay for the foundation repairs in the amount of \$4,000 and hire an architect for the interior design in the amount of \$10,000. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in favor.**

**Motion by Keriann Roman to add \$15,000 to the General Government Information Systems Management Line 468 for the Vision Software upgrade. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in favor.**

- **Salt Shed and Shoals View Drive**

The discussion of these issues were placed on hold until the Public Works Director can join in.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Phil Winslow to adjourn at 1:36 p.m. Seconded by Keriann Roman. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger