

Rindge Budget Advisory Committee
DRAFT MINUTES
November 12, 2020

PRESENT: Budget Advisory Committee Phil Motta, Chair (PM), Cheryl McCabe-Charron, Vice Chair (CMC), Bob Hamilton, Ex-Officio (BH), Member Sharon Rasku (SR), Dan Whitney (DW), David Graham (DG) and Tom Coneys (TC)

PM called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Approval of meeting minutes:

SR made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from 10/08/2020 as written. TC seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

New business:

The board reviewed the Joint Sessions with the BOS from November 4 and November 11, 2020. The following items impacting the budget were discussed:

Health insurance will increase by 8.4%

Retirement will increase Group 1, Employees 14.06% and Group 2, Police 33.88% and Fire 32.99%

Proposal to add a ninth police officer

- @ \$57,736 (39 weeks) of \$71,600 full year – excludes outfitting cost.
- Recognized the revolving door of employees due to competitive rate of pay and market forces.
- BH's research showed a 50% turnover in a 10 year period. This has continued to place a strain on the PD workforce and will continue to do so.
- The board discussed the possibility of upgrading software currently utilized by the PD to improve efficiency.
- Pursuing the COPS Grant was discussed, however for the 2021 budget the grant deadline has passed. Recommend to pursue the COPS Grant the for 2022 budget year.

There was a consensus of the Board to add the ninth officer.

There was a discussion on whether to place this item on a warrant article allowing the tax payers to make the decision or, add as a line item in the proposed PD budget. There was no consensus on warrant article vs. line item.

Executive/ Admin Salary

Old business/updates: none

Next meeting: Joint Session November 12 and BAC November 19

DW made a motion to adjourn. SR seconded the motion, all were in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl McCabe-Charron