

**Agenda**  
**Budget Review Committee**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2023**

**5:00 PM – Budget Review Committee Meeting**

**CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2023

**BUDGETS FOR REVIEW**

1. Fire (*Section 4 Page 65*)
2. EMA (Civil Defense) (*Section 4 Page 66*)
3. Fire CIP- Apparatus Replacement Fund (*Section 4 Page 67-70*)
4. Fire CIP- Portable Radios (*Section 4 Page 71-73*)
5. Fire Staffing- Assistant Chief (*Section 4 Page 74-75*)
6. Fire Staffing- 6 FF/Paramedics (*Section 4 Page 76-78*)
7. WEMS Operating (*Section 4 Page 86*)
8. WEMS CIP- Ambulance (*Section 4 Page 87*)
9. WEMS CIP- Major Medical (*Section 4 Page 88*)
10. Beach Enterprise (*Section 10 Page 212-213*)
11. Beach Enterprise CIP- Eastern Shore Gate (*Section 10 Page 214*)
12. IT Infrastructure (*Section 3 Page 49-50*)
13. IT Infrastructure CIP (*Section 3 Page 51-55*)
14. Police (*Section 4 Page 79*)
15. Dispatch (*Section 4 Page 80*)
16. Public Safety Facility (*Section 4 Page 80*)
17. Animal Control (*Section 4 Page 80*)
18. Police & Dispatch CIP- Software (*Section 4 Page 81*)
19. Police Staffing- 2 Officers (*Section 4 Page 82-83*)
20. Dispatch Staffing- 2 Officers (*Section 4 Page 84-85*)

**OTHER COMMITTEE TOPICS**

**ADJOURN**

## **Budget Review Committee – February 8, 2023**

Present: Budget Review Committee Members: Ron Schneider, Brian Toomey, Marisa Caputo, Bill Wade, Richard DeBold, Bob Mulcahy and Mark Bagdasarian. Staff Members: Town Manager Mike Pardue, Finance Director Jodie Sanborn, Accountant Casey Welch, Fire Chief Mark Dupuis, Executive Assistant to the Fire Chief Erica Dube, Police Chief Jo-ann Putnam, Officer Chris Baez, WEMS Director Steve Merrill and President of the WEMS Board Bob Arnold.

Selectboard Representatives: Scott DeFelice and Kathy Chase.

### **SPM BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING**

#### **Current Agenda**

1. Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2023.

Motion by Bill, seconded by Richard to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2023 meeting, as amended. Approved 6/0/1.

#### **Budget & CIP to Review**

##### **WEMS**

Steve and Bob discussed the fact sheet they handed out about the Town of Wells, call stats and current equipment. They talked about State of Maine Blue Ribbon Commission study on EMS in Maine and their findings that EMS departments are losing money every time an ambulance goes out on a call. They discussed that Medicare and Medicaid only pay a portion of the bill that is due and how hard it is to collect money directly from patients. Steve said that the subscriptions help make up for some of it and they are starting to look at billing collaboratives with the billing companies. All WEMS employees other than the director work per diem. WEMS' original request was for \$430,000 but they have reduced it to \$400,000.

Operations: Motion by Marissa, seconded by Richard to approve \$400,000. Approved 6/0/1.

##### **Ambulance**

Steve is requesting to replace a 2015 Chevrolet Ambulance in FY24.

Town Manager proposed: \$292,000 to be added to the fund and \$292,000 to be paid out.

##### **Major Medical**

Steve is requesting to replace the 2012 Lifepack 15 Cardiac Monitor as well as three 2005 intravenous pumps.

Town Manager proposed: \$50,000 to be added to the fund and \$50,000 to be paid out.

##### **Fire**

Mark explained that the increase in the Rental/Lease line is due to the payment for the new ladder truck. Computer/Software has increased because their software company was bought out by a new company and the price will be increasing. There is an increase in the Turnout Gear line in preparation of the Assistant Fire Chief position getting approved to purchase their gear. The original request for operations was for \$594,953 but after discussion the Vehicle line was reduced by \$5,000 to \$65,000 and the Gas & Oil line was increased by \$16,000 to \$30,000. The new proposed amount is \$605,953.

Operations: Motion by Brian, seconded by Marissa to approve \$605,953. Approved 7/0.

#### **EMA**

Operations: Motion by Brian, seconded by Mark to approve \$52,500. Approved 7/0.

#### **Apparatus Replacement Fund**

This is an ongoing fund used for future apparatus purchases. Mark discussed his current apparatus replacement program schedule with the committee. The next scheduled apparatus purchase is a replacement pumper, scheduled for FY 2028.

Town Manager proposed: \$125,000 to be added to the fund and \$0 to be paid out.

#### **Portable Radios**

Mark is requesting to purchase 31 new fire radios, 19 Motorola APX 4000R radios and 12 ICOM radios. Mark discussed the differences between the radios, explaining that the Motorola are better radios, but more expensive than the ICOMs. Purchasing 19 of the Motorola radios will ensure that each full-time fire fighter would have a Motorola radio.

Town Manager proposed: \$80,491 to be added to the fund and \$80491 to be paid out.

#### **Staffing-Assistant Chief**

Mark is requesting the addition of an Assistant Fire Chief position. With the department getting busier this person would assist the Chief in his daily operations, run the department in his absence, work directly with the Captains, assist as an additional responder to calls, run the EMS portion of the department and more.

#### **Staffing-Add 4 New FF/P**

The original request for 6 Firefighter/Paramedics was pulled and replaced with a proposal for 4 Firefighter/Paramedics. Through contract negotiation, the firefighters would like to change the current 3-shift system to a 4-shift system. If approved through union negotiations, another 4 Firefighter/Paramedics would be needed. The current model averages 56 hours per week, where the new model would average 42 hours per week.

#### **Beach Enterprise**

The Meter Rental line has increased due to the cost of new meter technology. There is also an increase in Waste Removal because of the cost of the waste removal contact this year.

Entire Beach Enterprise Fund: Motion by Brian, seconded by Marissa to approve the entire Beach Enterprise as presented. Approved 7/0.

#### **Eastern Shore Gate**

The request is to remove the existing gate and operator which are no longer working and install a new TyMetal gate and Liftmaster operator.

Town Manager proposed: \$0 to be added to the fund and \$20,000 to be paid out.

### **IT Infrastructure**

This budget covers all the town's software programs. There are a few budget items that weren't budgeted in FY23 due to the dissolving of the technology committee, but they are proposing to fund them again.

Operations: Motion by Brian, seconded by Marissa to approve \$413,000. Approved 7/0.

### **IT Infrastructure CIP**

Request to fund the purchase of any IT Infrastructure needed during the fiscal year.

Town Manager proposed: \$438,150 to be added to the fund and \$438,150 to be paid out.

### **Police**

Jo-ann explained that the original operations proposal was for \$602,400. After discussion with budget committee members, they have added \$7000 to the vehicle replacement line. The new request for the Vehicle Replacement is \$140,000 and the total for operations is \$609,400.

Operations: Motion by Brian, seconded by Richard to approve \$609,400. Approved 7/0.

Revenues: Motion by Brian, seconded by Marissa to approve \$163,600. Approved 7/0.

### **Dispatch**

The increase in the Radio Console line is due to adding a repeater.

Operations: Motion by Brian, seconded by Bob to approve \$129,450. Approved 7/0.

Revenues: Motion by Brian, seconded by Bill to approve \$120,000. Approved 7/0.

### **Public Safety Facility**

Operations: Motion by Brian, seconded by Marissa to approve \$135,580. Approved 7/0.

### **Animal Control**

Operations: Motion by Brian, seconded by Richard to approve \$16,700. Approved 7/0.

### **Police & Dispatch Software**

This request is to plan for future software updates.

Town Manager proposed: \$50,000 to be added to the fund and \$0 to be paid out.

### **Police Staffing- 2 Officers**

Jo-ann is requesting to add 2 full time police officer positions. These positions would help make sure that there would be at least 3 patrol officers on at all times. There are currently 24 full time officers. The department has not added a new patrol officer position since 1999.

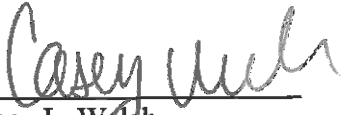
### **Dispatch Staffing- 2 Officers**

Jo-ann is requesting to add 2 full time dispatchers. Adding these two positions would ensure that there are always 2 dispatchers on duty.


**Other Committee Topics**

Motion by Brian to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Marissa. Approved 7/0.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Casey L. Welch  
Accountant

Approved by,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Schneider Jr.  
Budget Committee Chairman