

CONWAY VILLAGE FIRE DISTRICT
BUDGET HEARING
Tuesday February 11, 2020
Minutes

Commissioners present: Steve Bamsey, Tom Buco

Absent: Michael Digregorio

Others present: Amy Snow- Municipal Bookkeeper, Superintendent Steve Anderson, Chief Solomon

The budget hearing was opened at 7:01. Chairman Bamsey read each acritical to the public (see attached). The following was discussed:

Article 4- Gary Macdonald questioned the amount of \$50,000 to be funded by taxation. Chairman Bamsey explained that North Conway did an upgrade to its wastewater treatment facility, which increased CVFD's payment to them. Chairman Bamsey went on to explain the exact cost that we owed them was not known last year, and there was some disagreement on the interpretation of some of the language of the IMA (Intermunicipal Agreement). Chairman Bamsey went on to explain some money was put aside last year towards the payment, but the board did not know the final cost CVFD would be responsible for, so it was decided to put the cost on taxation to spread the cost out vs. water rents and revenues.

The IMA language is still being negotiated, and Mr. Bamsey hopes that next year the board will present something to the voters that will make things easier and less complicated and provide a cost-savings to the District.

Article 7- Municipal Bookkeeper Mrs. Snow explained this is a decrease in the amount that would need to be raised by betterment fees as a result of getting more SAG money from the State. The new rate sheet went out, showing the betterment fee is down to \$49.25. Mrs. Snow went on to explain the betterment fee will continue to go down as more of Lamplighters is included in the fee and as more development happens in the District.

Article 8- Chief Solomon explained he was able to save the District money on the SUV by going through the State bid process and outfitting the vehicle himself as opposed to sending it to Ossipee Mountain Electronics. He is budgeting for \$65,000 vs. the original amount of \$80,000. Gary Macdonald asked what will happen to the vehicle that it will be replacing. Chief Solomon explained the current car that he drives would replace Car 2, and Car 2 will be sold as surplus and go to revenue for the fire department, and the new vehicle will replace the car Chief Solomon drives.

Article 9- Gary Macdonald asked what the Water/Sewer Equipment Capital Reserve Trust Fund money is used for. Superintendent Anderson explained the money is used to replace vehicles and equipment for water and sewer as needed according to the vehicle and equipment improvement/ replacement schedule. The next truck replacement is scheduled for 2021. Any unexpected repairs come out of the operating budget.

Article 10- Gary Macdonald asked what the typical cost of an ambulance is. Chief Solomon explained a couple of years ago, the cost was around \$100,000-125,000 vs. today, the cost is between \$200,000-\$300,000, and the cost does not include the vehicle being fully outfitted. One of the reasons for the increase is there is little competition, and the EPA regulations for this size vehicle have also driven the cost up. Discussion ensued around how many years an ambulance is replaced and what other towns have paid for an ambulance and what revenue the District could get for selling the current ambulance.

Article 11- Superintendent Anderson explained some of this money would be used for the Main Street project. Gary Macdonald asked the status of the Main St. project. Superintendent Anderson and Chief Solomon

Check future meeting minutes for any amendments or changes to these minutes.

explained the timeline and the scope of the project. The project will go out to bid in late March or April, which is not favorable for the construction companies. Parking scenarios were discussed and how to best accommodate businesses in the village. Commissioner Bamsey stated that the commissioners were considering opening the lot at Pequawket Park for public parking during construction.

Article 12- Gary Macdonald asked what these funds are used for. Superintendent Anderson explained the funds are used for short term assets that need replacing regarding the force main or upgrades to the pump stations.

Article 13- Mr. Bamsey explained this article relates to article 7. He explained the history of how the state changed the formula for funding grants and how the State did not recognize work already done in the final application process. CVFD hired legal counsel to help with communication with the state and was successful in obtaining back pay from the state for the project. The money will be used to offset the betterment fee.

Article 15- Mrs. Snow explained these funds are used specifically for the fire station and administration building. Chairmen Bamsey explained all of the work that was done to the exterior of the fire station last year and Chief Solomon explained the administration building might need siding at some point, and the rooves will need to be replaced at some point on both the administration building and the fire station.

Article 16- Gary Macdonald commented he thinks the park looks great and asked how this money has been used in the past. Chairman Bamsey and Chief Solomon explained all the lights in the park were replaced with LED lights, work was done to the gazebo, and more work still needs to be done to it. There was trail work done, and some tree work was done in the park. Also, all the mulch was removed and replaced.

Article 17- Mrs. Snow explained that Superintendent Anderson submitted a preapplication for this loan with the Department of Environmental Services to conduct an I&I study; the top six projects were approved. CVFD was number eight on the list, two of the projects that were approved are not going through. DES has informed Mrs. Snow that CVFD has made it onto the list and the first thing that needs to be done is get voter approval at annual meeting and then apply for the loan. Some engineering will need to be done. This study is important to find potential infiltration that gets into the sewer system that is costing the District money in processing at North Conway Water Precinct. Chairmen Bamsey explained further on the cost to the district in processing the infiltration. The infiltration could be as high as 40%. The importance of not hooking sump pumps into the sewer system was briefly discussed.

There being no questions or other business to discuss, Mr. Bamsey closed the budget hearing at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Bolduc Receptionist