

PHIPPSBURG BUDGET COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – March 27, 2023

Attendees: Budget Committee Members Ed Toombs, Bruce Suppes, Jeff Knuckles, Ed Cherian, Juanita Clark, Ethan DeBery, Michael Winer. Town Administrator Ross McLellan.

Absent: (none)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Toombs at 5:25 p.m.

The minutes of the 3/21/23 meeting were not available for approval.

Police Department Operations Fund Request: \$43,100

John Skroski, Police Chief presented the proposed Police Department Operations Fund Request. Chief Skroski, a 33-year law enforcement veteran (having served 22 of those years for the town) presented on the police department's activities and achievements. Achievements included obtaining a 3rd AED, Crisis Intervention training, receipt of 2 grants (utilized to improve the Evidence Room and obtain Maine Police accreditation), and the receipt and in-process implementation of body cameras and cruiser cameras. Chief Skroski explained that the Operations fund pays for parking sign maintenance, increased training requirements mandated by state accreditation requirements, and increasing fuel costs. Motion made and seconded to recommend approval of the request of \$43,100 for Police Department Operations budget. Vote 5-2 in favor.

Police Department Capital Fund Request: \$35,000

John Skroski, Police Chief presented the proposed Police Department Capital Fund Request, including funds for utilities, alarms, oil, propane. Motion made and seconded to recommend approval of the request of \$35,000 for Fire Department Operations budget. Further discussion centered on Taser replacement and the timing of cruiser replacement. Vote 6 – 1 in favor.

Animal Control Fund Request: \$7,000

John Skroski, Police Chief presented the proposed Animal Control Request. Chief Skroski stated that the Animal Control Officer is a difficult position to staff and retain, in part due to the pay level. Motion made and seconded to recommend approval of the request of \$7,000 for Animal Control budget. Vote 7-0 in favor.

Parking Enforcement Fund Request: \$14,300

John Skroski, Police Chief presented the proposed Parking Enforcement Request. Chief Skroski stated that the request envisions more consistent staffing and coverage, especially in the Popham area. Motion made and seconded to (1) recommend approval of the request of \$14,300 for Parking Enforcement and (2) recommend to the Selectmen use best efforts to seek state funds towards enforcement in the Popham area. Vote 7-0 in favor.

Full-Time Officer Request: \$100,000

John Skroski, Police Chief presented the proposed Full Time Officer Fund Request. Chief Skroski stated that the town is frequently without an officer on duty, and that during these times coverage is provided by the County Sheriff. Chairman Toombs stated that recommendation of funding the police officer decision should follow the decision as to whether to have the County Sheriff provide enforcement for the town, after Chief Skroski's potential retirement in 2024. Motion made and seconded to recommend approval of the request of \$100,000 for a Full-Time Officer budget. Vote was 4 – 3 against.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Michael Winer, CPA, Secretary