

Town of Ashby, Massachusetts

Finance Committee Meeting

January 24, 2017

Present: Kevin Stetson (Chair), Kathy Panagiotes, Sharon Cassidy, Rebecca Walsh, Liryc Donald, Doug Leab, and our host Ashby Police Department Chief Fred Alden

Start: 7:30 pm

No minutes to review. No meeting held on January 10, quorum unavailable.

Meeting held at the Ashby Police Department. Thanks to Joyce Hopkins for receiving us, and for the work she does as the only F/T+ dispatcher.

Happy New Year to All!

Discussion:

- Reserve Officer Salo will complete Police Academy and because it was not budgeted, the officer will pay for his own training, approx. \$3000.00 includes the training and equipment. He will be unavailable for 6 months and that leaves another hole in the department
- APD needs 55 shifts covered with potential new hires and the Chief has found some replacements
- Presently APD has 6 F/T officers and 3 P/T officers and he predicts OT will rise (min. 4 hr pay for OT)
- Patrolmen contract expires June 2018 and xxxxxx]June 2018 for the Chief
- Chief describes deficiencies in PD building
 - Not prudent to do any more upgrades
 - Hopeful for a new building within the next couple of years
 - Senator Anne Gobi was in the PD last January and was willing to continue discussion towards finding funding for a new PD
 - Present “double wide” has 1776 sq. feet, plans for new suggest 4,000 sq. feet.
- Regional dispatch will need to be reviewed, dispatcher position difficult to fill, training is demanding as it the job
- PD does not have an administrative assistant, the Chief does the paperwork.

Plan: Chief will discuss Sen. Gobi’s visit with BOS and TA. He will discuss the needs of the Fire Station and the Highway Barn with those department heads as well

Meeting Adjourned: 9pm

Tour of building offered and taken by several.

Next Meeting: February 14, 2017

Kathy Panagiotes
Secretary

