

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Wednesday, May 1, 2019.

Those in attendance included Mayor Elinor Carbone and Commissioners Angelo LaMonica, Douglas Benedetto, Robert Conforti, Glenn McLeod, Richard Zaharek, and Darlene Battle.

Also present were Police Chief Bill Baldwin, Jr., Captain Wayne Newkirk, Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, City Comptroller Alice Proulx, Deputy Comptroller Gina Casper, and City Treasurer Dan Farley. Fire Chief Peter Towey arrived at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Conforti, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held April 3, 2019.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Zaharek the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. No one from the public wished to speak.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted to approve the proposed Police Department budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as presented, at a total of \$9,114,717, and recommend approval to the City Council, with five votes in favor and one (Commissioner McLeod) opposed.

Chief Baldwin stated the cuts that he made to his original budget that was submitted to the Budget Subcommittee, which reflected an 8.2% increase from the current fiscal year budget. He credited the proposed increase to contractual obligations and the addition of two new officers, as well as the restoration of the Deputy Chief position. He stated that removing the two additional officers and the Deputy Chief position from the budget was necessary in order to bring the proposed increase down to 2.55%. He explained the valuable role that a Deputy Chief plays in succession planning and the daily operations of a Police Department. Commissioners McLeod and Conforti expressed support for restoring the Deputy Chief position to the Police Department budget. Commissioner Benedetto opposed and Commissioner LaMonica suggested restoring the position to the budget when one of the current Captains retires or leaves the Department. Commissioners Zaharek and Battle expressed their support for that possibility.

POLICE: ANIMAL CONTROL BUDGET

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed Animal Control budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as presented, at a total of \$286,177, and recommend approval to the City Council.

Chief Baldwin described some of the cuts that were made to his original Animal Control budget that he submitted to the Budget Subcommittee in order to bring the increase down to 3.42% above the current fiscal year budget. He stated that the hiring of two new per diem Animal Control Officers and building maintenance were driving factors behind the 2019/2020 budget increase.

POLICE: TRAFFIC DIVISION BUDGET

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed Traffic Division budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as presented, at a total of \$397,560, and recommend approval to the City Council.

Chief Baldwin explained some of the increases to the Traffic Division budget from the current fiscal year, including contractual obligations and storage containers, and stated the cuts that he made to the original budget which he submitted to the Budget Subcommittee, resulting in an increase of 2.47%.

FIRE: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BUDGET

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed Emergency Management budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as presented, at a total of \$34,930, and recommend approval to the City Council.

Mayor Carbone announced that Chief Towey would be arriving late due to his attendance at a meeting regarding the reassignment of the PSA from Campion Ambulance.

Deputy Chief Tripp explained that the proposed Emergency Management budget reflects a decrease from the current fiscal year budget due to the resignation of Rick Dalla Valle and restructuring the Deputy Emergency Management Director's duties.

FIRE: VOLUNTEERS BUDGET

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed Volunteers budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as presented, at a total of \$41,082, and recommend approval to the City Council.

Deputy Chief Tripp stated that the proposed budget reflects no change from the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget, and warned that level funding would create more struggles for the Volunteer Departments.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Zaharek, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed Fire Department budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as presented, at a total of \$5,542,562, and recommend approval to the City Council.

Deputy Chief Tripp described the cuts that were made to the Fire Department budget that was first presented to the Budget Subcommittee in order to get down to a 2.5% increase from the current fiscal year budget, including the elimination of four currently vacant positions, reducing Extra Duty time and off-shift trainings, and eliminating community programs. Commissioner McLeod expressed his concerns regarding insufficient training.

Chief Towey arrived and added that approximately \$40,000 was eliminated from the operational side of the budget in order to account for increases that were outside of their control.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

On a motion by Commissioner Conforti, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads.

Chief Baldwin updated the Board on progress being made at the intersection of Kennedy Drive and Tarringford West Street, and stated that the Department is looking into services to collect payments for unpaid parking tickets. He also announced that Officer Cooling will be resigning from the Department along with his K-9 Officer Remington, and there will be a police personnel subcommittee meeting on May 7, 2019. Lastly, he thanked the Fire Department and the Fire Police for their response to a fatal crash on April 24, 2019. Commissioner Benedetto expressed his concerns regarding the Police impound lot and Captain Newkirk explained some of the measures that the Department would like to take but are unable to due to its limited budget.

Chief Towey commended the Police, Fire, and Volunteer Fire Departments for their work and announced that FF Deering returned from his deployment. Deputy Chief Tripp encouraged the Board and the public to follow the Fire Department's Facebook page.

BUSINESS BY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Volunteer Fire Departments. Drakeville VFD Chief Maccalous expressed his frustration regarding the lack of funding for the Volunteer Fire Departments and described the severity of their budget constraints. Tarringford VFD echoed Chief Maccalous's remarks.

BUSINESS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY


On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the Board of Public Safety.

The Board commended the Budget Subcommittee and the Chiefs for their work on the budgets, and expressed gratitude for the Volunteer Fire Departments.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK