

**CITY COUNCIL & WPCA  
BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING  
City Hall Auditorium / Zoom  
June 2, 2021**

A **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING** of the City Council and Water Pollution Control Authority and the Board of Public Safety was held at the City Hall auditorium on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. Attendance was by ZOOM and in person. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Councilors Paul Cavagnero, Frank Rubino and Sharon Waagner, and Board of Public Safety Commissioners Gregg Cogswell, Glenn McLeod, Dustin Bingham, Douglas Benedetto and Darlene Battle. Fire Chief Peter Towey, Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, Police Chief William Baldwin, Jr., Police Captain Bart Barown, WPCA Administrator Ed Tousey, Drakeville VFD Chief David Maccalous and Tarringford VFD volunteers Scott Mills and Gary Delmonte were also present. Comptroller Alice Proulx, Deputy Comptroller Gina Casper and Councilors David Oliver and Drake Waldron participated by Zoom. Councilor Anne Ruwet and Commissioner Joseph McElroy were absent.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Public Hearing Scheduled**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Councilor Waagner, the City Council herein acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority, voted unanimously to schedule a Public Hearing for June 14, 2021 at 6:30 PM to solicit public feedback and set the Sewer User Fee for the period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

**Presentation & Dedication of TPD Crime Van**

Chief Baldwin explained the need that the Police Department had for a new crime van and discussed the work of the Vehicle Replacement Advisory Board (VRAB). He presented plaques dedicating the crime van to the late Board of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Conforti, Jr. and acknowledging the efforts of others involved in the acquisition of the vehicle. Chief Baldwin also presented a posthumous civilian award to Mr. Conforti's wife in recognition of Mr. Conforti's service to the City. Mayor Carbone also reflected on Mr. Conforti's contributions to the City.

**Meeting Recessed**

On a motion by Councilor Waagner, seconded by Commissioner Cogswell, the Boards voted unanimously to recess the meeting 6:43 p.m., to allow attendees the opportunity to view the new crime van.

**Meeting Reconvened**

On a motion by Councilor Rubino, seconded by Commissioner Cogswell, the Boards voted unanimously to reconvene the meeting 7:07 p.m.

**Discussion & Review: Public Safety Budgets**

The Boards reviewed the amended public safety budgets for the fiscal period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, as they were presented by Chief Baldwin and Chief Towey.

**Fire Department Budgets:** Chief Towey described the changes that were made to his Level 1 proposed Fire Department, Volunteers and Emergency Management budgets. He explained that his initial requested budget increase of 17.13% over the current fiscal year was reduced to a 3% increase, primarily through staffing reductions, cutting back on education and specialized training, as well as other reductions to capital reserves, utilities, equipment, fuel, building maintenance, service agreements, physical exams, promotional testing and stipends for the volunteers.

Commissioner Battle requested clarification regarding the VFDs' stipends. Mayor Carbone explained that each Department would receive a stipend of \$20,000, for a total of \$40,000. Mayor Carbone also expressed optimism that some of the capital projects that were pushed off due to budget reductions could be eligible for funding through the American Rescue Plan. Commissioner Bingham questioned how fuel costs were budgeted. Mayor Carbone explained that contracts for fuel go out to bid and are awarded annually.

**Police Department Budget:** Chief Baldwin described the changes that were made to his Level 1 proposed Police Department budget. He reported that his initial requested budget increase of approximately 15% over the current fiscal year was reduced to a 7.56% increase and he explained that the increases were primarily the result of capital expenditures, contractual general wage increases and new mandates brought on by the Police Accountability Bill. Chief Baldwin explained that additional cuts brought his budget down to approximately 3% over the current fiscal year, including significant reductions to capital funding, flat lining much of the Police Department's expenses and eliminating positions, including Deputy Chief. He further explained that the

Deputy Chief position was reinstated upon the request of the Budget Subcommittee, which brought his total Police Department Budget up to a 3.72% increase over the current fiscal year. Chief Baldwin emphasized the impact that the new legislation had on his proposed budget and Councilor Waagner expressed concern about meeting the State's deadlines for implementing the Accountability Bill's required mandates.

Councilor Cavagnero requested clarification regarding the storage of dash cam and body cam footage. Captain Barown explained that the TPD began a ten-year contract for storage of body cam footage and Chief Baldwin indicated his preference to utilize the same company for the new dash cams that will need to be purchased. Commissioner McLeod expressed support for reinstating the Deputy Police Chief's position, but stated his concerns about a succession plan. Commissioner Bingham requested clarification regarding the impact of reductions to the Police Department's Capital Reserve funds. Chief Baldwin explained that the reductions would impact or delay software upgrades related to the Police Department's CAD/RMS system, the replacement of ballistic vests and the TPD's radio system, as well as building maintenance, repairs and upgrades. Commissioner Benedetto expressed concern about where the TPD planned to store its new crime van and Chief Baldwin explained that it would be stored indoors at the Burrville Fire School until the City comes up with a more permanent solution.

**(Police) Traffic Control Budget:** Chief Baldwin described the changes that were made to his Level 1 proposed Traffic Control budget. He explained that his initial requested budget increase of 16.6% over the current fiscal year was reduced to a 3.79% increase, as a result of reductions to capital reserve funds, repairs and equipment. Chief Baldwin also cautioned that the City would need to begin upgrading its traffic control signals. Commissioner Bingham requested clarification regarding the anticipated cost of the traffic signal replacement project and Captain Barown explained that they estimated a minimum of \$7,000 to \$11,000 per intersection.

**Animal Control Budget:** Chief Baldwin explained that he eliminated \$50,000 of Capital Reserve funds from his Level 1 proposed Animal Control budget. He noted the City's efforts to replace the existing Animal Control Facility and reported that his amended Animal Control budget reflected an increase of approximately \$47,000, or 15.3%, over the current fiscal year. Mayor Carbone also emphasized the need to replace the Animal Control Facility and provided an update on the City's attempts to gather additional funding for the project.

### **Approval of Budgets**

On a motion by Commissioner Bingham, seconded by Commissioner Cogswell, the Board of Public Safety voted unanimously to approve and advance the proposed Police Department budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 to the City Council, as amended, for the total amount of \$9,663,771.

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board of Public Safety voted unanimously to approve and advance the proposed Animal Control budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 to the City Council, as amended, for the total amount of \$345,439.

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board of Public Safety voted unanimously to approve and advance the proposed Traffic Control budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 to the City Council, as amended, for the total amount of \$408,000.

On a motion by Commissioner Cogswell, seconded by Commissioner Battle, the Board of Public Safety voted unanimously to approve and advance the proposed Fire Department budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 to the City Council, as amended, for the total amount of \$5,971,506.

On a motion by Commissioner Bingham, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board of Public Safety voted unanimously to approve and advance the proposed Volunteer Fire Departments budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 to the City Council, as amended, for the total amount of \$65,000.

On a motion by Commissioner Cogswell, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board of Public Safety voted unanimously to approve and advance the proposed Emergency Management budget for the fiscal period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 to the City Council, as amended, for the total amount of \$35,800.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

*Carol L. Anderson*  
CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK